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Fighting for Choice…and Responsibility

[Jon sent the following email to members of the campaign earlier this morning.]

Over the last five years, radical activists have been waging a stealth campaign targeting reproductive freedom—and the choice they are targeting is whether Americans should be able to plan their families.

We're not talking about access to abortion. We're talking about access to contraception.

Contraception shouldn't be a controversial issue. It prevents unintended pregnancies and prevents abortions.

Indeed, it's the very medical breakthrough that has made widespread responsible family planning possible.

It wasn't until the mid-1960s that women had legal access to contraception. Now women and families need to have access to contraception in health coverage.

Yet today there is a quiet war being waged regarding access to contraception. And here in Montana, most insurance plans don't cover birth control, even when they cover Viagra.

I don't think that's right.

I have requested a legal opinion from the Attorney General of Montana to clarify whether insurance companies that provide prescription drug coverage must also, by law, cover contraception.

I think we have a good case and that we'll prevail on this issue. The law is on our side. That's good.

This is an issue of fairness and basic health for Montanans. It also gets to the heart of Montana values – freedom, choice, and responsibility. This is about making sure women and families have access to health coverage and Montanans can make their own decisions.

That means that soon, in Montana, women and families will have the insurance coverage they need and deserve.

That's the sort of thing we should all be able to agree on.

Sincerely,

Jon Tester

PS Help us bring Montana values to Washington by forwarding this email to your friends and family, and asking them to join the campaign at http://www.testerforsenate.com/join/. Or make a financial contribution at: http://www.testerforsenate.com/contribute/.

Posted by **Jon Tester** on Nov. 04, 2005 at 11:00 am
Comments: 1 Comment | Grow the Campaign -- Forward This to a Friend

The Gazette Nails It: Rotten Politics at Work

The *Billings Gazette* editorial page this morning nails it on Country of Origin Labeling. They note that virtually everything except meat has a nice label explaining where it came from, but what we do for tortilla companies, we can't do for American ranchers for some reason.

But the problem isn't necessarily the commitment of Montana or Wyoming Republicans. It's that their party leadership in Washington is so beholden to special interests that they won't even pay attention to members of their own caucus:

> Wyoming's U.S. senators, Mike Enzi and Craig Thomas, both Republicans, jointly called for conferees to block efforts to delay COOL. The Wyoming duo has introduced legislation to move up labeling implementation to January 2006. Rep. Denny Rehberg, R-Mont., also has been a vocal proponent of COOL. Likewise, U.S. Sen. Conrad Burns last week said he is "furious" with the latest delay. But these Montana and Wyoming Republicans have been unable to sway their party.
>
> In Montana, state Sen. Jon Tester, D-Big Sandy, a candidate for the Senate seat Burns now holds, was the chief sponsor of Montana COOL legislation that was signed into law to take effect next year, if the federal law doesn't.

When Democrats took back the reins of power here in Montana, it took the leadership of Jon Tester, Brian Schweitzer, and Bob Bergren one session to deliver on COOL. We've been waiting 4 years at the federal level. It looks like it might be time for change in Washington.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Nov. 02, 2005 at 10:04 am
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign -- Forward This to a Friend

Burns Knows He Has a Real Race on His Hands

–from Bill Lombardi

"In the staid halls of the U.S. Senate, Montana Republican Conrad Burns is known for his booming voice and his cheery, back-slapping confidence. But when it comes to talking about his upcoming bid for re-election, his demeanor turns more serious."

- Associated Press, 10/29/05

Just in case you didn't see it, there's an article in this morning's *Great Falls Tribune* you need to check out.

When you read the article, you see that Senator Burns is acknowledging what Jon Tester has been talking about since day one in this campaign:
Health care is too expensive, energy prices are too high, and we need a change in direction in this country.

But after seventeen years in Washington, it doesn't look like Senator Burns has a solution on any of these fronts.

The fact is that while Senator Burns at the end points out that he's in Washington, that he's got seniority, and that he's in the majority, he still has trouble pointing to anything he's done about these two most pressing problems facing Montana: health care costs and energy prices.

The fact is that back here in Montana, Jon Tester has been a leader on both of these issues, passing new health insurance and prescription drug plans and taking the lead in diversifying our energy portfolio and decreasing our dependence on foreign oil.

The fact of the matter is that Conrad Burns is worried about Jon Tester. Where Burns has his claim to seniority, Tester has a history of getting the job done.

Five years ago, an upstart Montana rancher nearly knocked Conrad Burns out of office.

Next year, an upstart Montana farmer will finish the job.

Tell your friends: Conrad is vulnerable. He knows it. Washington knows it. Most importantly, Montanans know it, because we need a change in direction in this country and an end to the culture of corruption in Washington.

Thanks for your support,

Bill Lombardi
Montanans for Tester

Posted by **Guest Writer** on Oct. 29, 2005 at 1:44 pm
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign -- Forward This to a Friend

COOL: Getting the Job Done

Senator Burns is wringing his hands in Washington, D.C. because his own party keeps shutting down efforts to get Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) implemented. He even goes so far as to accuse his own party of selling out to special interests. Who would have thought?

But here's the thing. When it comes to COOL, Washington has a little bit to learn from Montana. Frustrated with years of delay in D.C., Jon Tester, Rep. Bob Bergren, and Gov. Brian Schweitzer passed their own COOL bill in Montana, earning a status as heroes among the Montana Cattlemen Association. Republicans criticized the effort, saying it was grandstanding since the federal government would deliver.

If only that were the case.

But while Conrad Burns wrings his hands, Jon Tester rolls up his sleeves and gets the job done.

That's the difference here in Montana.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Oct. 28, 2005 at 10:52 am
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign -- Forward This to a Friend

What We've Accomplished So Far

[Note: Jon sent the following email to supporters of the campaign today. To sign up to receive free email updates, click here.]

In the last three months, you raised more money for our campaign than any other Democrat in this race against Conrad Burns.

Thanks to your efforts and support, we're reporting $324,000 raised in the third quarter, with a total of $382,000 raised since I entered the race in late May.

But the most amazing thing is not the amount of money we've raised, but the number of people who have taken part in our effort to bring Montana values to Washington, D.C.

Nearly 3,000 individuals have contributed to this campaign, demonstrating that our support comes from the bottom-up — from everyday working Montanans — and not from the top-down special interests who are financing Conrad Burns.

Montanans are making it loud and clear that they want real change in Washington, D.C.

As I've traveled across the state, I've heard Montanans tell me that they want access to affordable health care for their families, good-paying jobs, and quality education for their kids.

I've heard their concerns about protecting Social Security and their retirement income. And I've heard from many people the complaint that politicians in Washington just don't seem concerned about regular working people.

But we're going to change that.

You've accomplished a tremendous amount in the last few months. But what we've accomplished together is just the beginning. Please take a moment to tell your friends about our campaign. Ask them to join us in the fight to bring real change to Washington. They can join for free by visiting this link:

http://www.testerforsenate.com/join/

And if you haven't yet done so, please consider volunteering for the campaign. Your time and commitment can make a huge difference in winning this race. You can sign up to lend a hand by visiting this link.

Thank you all for all that you do,

Jon Tester

Posted by **Guest Writer** on Oct. 17, 2005 at 12:22 pm
Comments: 1 Comment | Grow the Campaign -- Forward This to a Friend

Welcome Aboard!

My friend Rob, known better to the Montana blogging world as Wulfgar!, endorsed Jon today.

He had this to say:

> I am anti-DC establishment, and become more so by the day. This bunch of politicking losers are the same bunch who handed the Senate to the Republicans in the first place ... specifically because they've lost touch with the people who vote. Jon rightly points out that the Pearl Jam concert wasn't a "stunt", it was friends being friends. If the Republicans want to match Jon's friends against Conrad's friends, then we got us a winner, here.
>
> […]
>
> Jon Tester understands that Montanans actually value our state, our relationships, and our loyalties.
>
> […]
>
> I don't care who thinks a candidate is just spiffy, half as much as I want insight into that candidates beliefs and loyalties. I want a candidate loyal to Montana, to Montanans, his friends and his neighbors. Do we elect Senators to represent establishment groups and interest parties, or to represent us? I think the latter. And that's why I can finally, strongly, endorse Jon Tester for the US Senate.

Thanks, Rob. I'm glad to have you on-board.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Oct. 10, 2005 at 4:33 pm
Comments: 1 Comment | Grow the Campaign -- Forward This to a Friend

Trusting Big Sandy Over Washington, D.C.

You might have seen it last week, a little article in the *National Journal*, Washington, D.C.'s, most insider publication, that said that any candidate seen with Big Sandy's Jeff Ament and Pearl Jam was a surefire loser in Montana.

Quite frankly, I was a little ticked off. But I didn't give it much thought because taking advice on winning elections from Washington, D.C., can be a bit like taking a business ethics class from Jack Abramoff, the Washington lobbyist tied to Conrad Burns and under indictment for wire fraud and conspiracy.

But then one of my primary opponents, John Morrison, decided that he needed to distribute this article across the state of Montana.

Let me tell you this: **I don't like Washington insiders telling me I can't be seen with my old friends from Big Sandy**. Montanans stick together, and don't forget friends just because some D.C. insider thinks that friends are disposable. That's not the Montana way.

I grew up with Jeff Ament of Pearl Jam. Jeff is a Big Sandy boy like me. His father was Mayor, and gave me my first flattop haircut. I taught Jeff's sisters and brother music in school. And Jeff and I used to play pickup basketball games together.

Jeff has been fortunate to make a good living doing what he loves – playing music. Year after year he gives back to the people and youth of Montana, the state he still calls home today.

I'm running for the U.S. Senate because I think Conrad Burns has lost touch with this state. I sure won't forget my Montana values and roots – and family and friends.

That's a promise. This Montana farmer knows what matters. I'm running to represent Montanans — all Montanans. And, yes, even my friend from Big Sandy, Jeff Ament, can count on me too.

Posted by **Jon Tester** on Oct. 10, 2005 at 2:41 pm
Comments: 2 Comments | Grow the Campaign -- Forward This to a Friend

Grizzlies: You Like Us! You Really Like Us!

Wow.

I just wanted to thank everyone who marched with Jon Tester at the homecoming parade. Your energy is absolutely contagious and Jon Tester will win if you keep it up.

Honestly, people were just lining the sidewalks chanting, "TESTER! TESTER! TESTER!"

That was so awesome.

Also, a shout out to the U of M College Democrats — 85 people at your first meeting. Great job on turnout calls and tabling. Keep us at the Tester campaign updated on how we can help.

I hope everyone's homecoming was as fun as the parade.

Photos will be up tomorrow.

Posted by **Jess Grennan** on Oct. 03, 2005 at 8:23 pm
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign -- Forward This to a Friend

Homecoming on Saturday

Jon was in Missoula on Saturday for the Homecoming Parade. Jess Grennan, our staffer who was there with him, has promised a report and pictures later today. Look forward to it.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Oct. 03, 2005 at 9:47 am
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign -- Forward This to a Friend

You Did It – Thank You

[Jon Tester sent the following email to members of the campaign today. To sign up to receive updates from the campaign, click here.]

Your response – and the result of your efforts – is amazing.

At the end of June, Montanans for Tester had raised just over $55,000 and had just a few hundred known supporters around the state.

The pundits wondered if we could win this race.

You've shown them the answer is YES – and in just three short months you have built a statewide campaign strong enough to **win the Democratic primary in June** and **defeat Conrad Burns next November**.

We're still tallying the final numbers of our fundraising efforts. If you made a financial contribution this quarter, **I want to thank you**—we know we've exceeded our internal goals thanks to your incredible efforts.

But all of you have played a critical role in getting us to where we are—and I am deeply grateful for every person's efforts. Whether by joining this email list... recruiting your friends... going to the Pearl Jam show in Missoula... or volunteering your time or giving your hard-earned money, **you have been the heart and soul and reason for our campaign's success so far.** None of this would be possible without you.

We'll be reporting the final fundraising numbers to the FEC in a few weeks—but I didn't want to wait to express my deepest appreciation for everything everyone has done. We've gotten to this incredible place because of your efforts, and next November we'll send Montana values to Washington, D.C. the same way—by **working together**.

Thank you for everything you do,

Jon Tester

Posted by **Guest Writer** on Oct. 01, 2005 at 9:45 am
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign -- Forward This to a Friend

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The Countdown Starts Today

Bill Lombardi sent out an email to the campaign list today:

> We've come a long way in the last four months.
>
> When Jon Tester announced his campaign in late May, our main primary opponent was well on his way to raising $400,000 at a time when we didn't even have a bank account. Polls showed us with little name recognition, pulling just 26 percent of the vote in a hypothetical election. And we didn't even have an email list—just a list of people that Jon had promised to call when he made the decision to run.
>
> But thanks to you, we've come a long way– and the momentum is building. A new poll shows Jon has gone from 26 percent in May to 38 percent support today in a hypothetical match-up. In the last two months, your efforts to recruit friends and family have doubled the size of our campaign. And just three weeks ago, we pulled off one of the biggest political rallies in Montana's history at the Pearl Jam show in Missoula.
>
> But the next two weeks are the most important weeks we've faced so far, and we need to demonstrate to the press, pundits and D.C. insiders that the grassroots momentum building behind our campaign can speak to them in the only language they understand—the language of money.
>
> Next Friday, September 30th, is the third-quarter deadline for FEC fundraising purposes. How well we do will send a loud message about the strength of our campaign, and about your commitment to sending a working Montanan to represent you in Washington. Please contribute what you can today.
>
> I know money is tight for many Montanans. Conrad Burns' high-roller big donors don't feel the pinch of gasoline near $3 a gallon and skyrocketing natural gas prices as winter approaches. Conrad Burns has consistently voted against the interests of working Montanans—voting to give tax breaks to oil companies at a time when many Montanans are struggling to fill up the gas tank.
>
> The truth is, we can't afford to keep Conrad Burns in Washington any longer. Please contribute what you can and help us throw Burns out.
>
> I cannot overstate how important the September 30th deadline is. A strong showing will set the tone for our campaign, and send a message to the rest of the state and the rest of the nation that working Montanans have had enough with out-of-touch D.C. politicians.
>
> Thank you for taking part in our campaign to send Montana values to Washington, D.C.
>
> Bill Lombardi
> Montanans for Tester
>
> P.S. You can receive exclusive posters from the Pearl Jam concert for your contribution. Click here to contribute and receive a poster: http://www.testerforsenate.com/posters/

That's right, you can contribute today and get one of those posters from the concert (a couple people have emailed me about how to get one. Well, this is your chance.).

But more importantly, you can send a message that we're ready for change. Jon's been standing up on issues critical to Montanans, like public access, and on issues important to all working Americans, like the energy bill. Send a signal that Democrats who stand up deserve support.

Contribute Today!

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Sep. 19, 2005 at 11:24 am
Comments: | Grow the Campaign -- Forward This to a Friend

1 Comment »

1. **MT-Sen: End-of-Quarter Push for Tester**

   September 30th is the end of the fundraising quarter, when all federal candidates have to file detailed reports with the FEC and announce how much scrilla they've hauled in. That's less than two weeks away. So it's up to us to help our main man, off...

   Trackback by Swing State Project — September 19, 2005 @ 12:00 pm

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Meet Jon Tester and Pearl Jam on August 29 in Missoula

This email was sent out today by the campaign. To get regular updates, sign up.

Next Monday at the Adams Center in Missoula, Pearl Jam will be playing a one-night-only benefit concert for the Montanans for Tester U.S. Senate campaign.

This show is an important piece of our fundraising strategy for this quarter—so if you can make it, please purchase your tickets by clicking here.

Before the show, we're hosting a special fundraising reception. This is a great opportunity to meet Jon Tester, as well as a chance to personally meet Jeff Ament — and potentially additional members of Pearl Jam, who could be in attendance.

We want you to be there—and that's why we're giving away a pair of free tickets to the reception. You can sign up for the chance to win reception tickets here.

You can also increase your chances of winning by forwarding this email to your friends and family, and asking them to click on the link above. Or, if you'd like to guarantee your slot at the reception, you can find out how to purchase reception tickets directly here.

The concert on Monday kicks off the final month of the fundraising quarter, which ends on September 30th. This may be the most important month our campaign will ever face. How well we do will send a loud message to the pundits and the D.C. insiders about the strength of our campaign, and about your commitment to sending a working Montanan to represent Montana values in the U.S. Senate.

So please, do all you can to help us make this event a success. Tell your friends and family near Missoula about the show, and about the chance to win free tickets to the reception.

It's going to be a great night. We'll see you in Missoula.

Bill Lombardi
Montanans for Tester

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Aug. 22, 2005 at 2:53 pm
Comments: | Grow the Campaign -- Forward This to a Friend

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Help Our Neighbors

About an hour ago, Jon sent out the following message to our email list:

> I want to thank all of you who helped make Monday night's Pearl Jam show in Missoula such a tremendous success. Whether you attended the show in person, showed your support by contributing online, or just read about the night's events on our blog, your participation means a great deal to me.
>
> Now I want to ask you to participate in another way—by making a contribution to the American Red Cross to support the residents of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama who have been devastated by Hurricane Katrina.
>
> As I write this, waters continue to rise in New Orleans, where entire neighborhoods have been flooded. Biloxi, Mississippi has been hit hard. More than 37,000 Americans are already seeking shelter in American Red Cross centers all along the Gulf Coast. And the director of FEMA says tens of thousands more will likely require shelter for weeks, if not months.
>
> So why is a U.S. Senate candidate from Montana asking you to help out?
> Because it's the right thing to do. Because this campaign isn't just about politics—it's about all of us pulling together to bring Montana values to Washington, D.C. and to the rest of the nation.
>
> And in Montana, we help a neighbor in need. And sometimes that neighbor is very far away.
>
> So please do what you can by supporting the efforts of the American Red Cross to help those affected by this disaster.
>
> Thank you for helping out.
>
> Jon Tester
> Montanans for Tester

Honestly, please help the Red Cross. And if you want to get campaign updates in the future, join the email list over on the right.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Aug. 30, 2005 at 5:53 pm
Comments: | Grow the Campaign -- Forward This to a Friend

1 Comment »

1. [...] I have read in three or four opinion pieces today that President Bush is not shoring up the American people in the way that a great, or even good, leader (RE: Kennedy, "ask not...") ought to. I agree, and while the President's failure offers an opportunity for good leaders to step in and do the right thing, I also think that there is a plain reason that President Bush has not called on America in this way, when past great leaders have: he underestimates the chartiable spirit of the American people. This might be because there are a lot of greedy bastards hanging around him all the time and he has really lost touch with the charitable heart of America. [...]

   Pingback by Left in the West » Blog Archive » President Bush on Katrina — September 1, 2005 @ 11:26 am

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Conrad Votes Against Independent Commission on Katrina

Despite widespread public support, the US Senate today voted against the creation of an independent commission to look at what went wrong in the response to Katrina. The commission would have looked at the local, state, and federal responses.

Conrad was one of those voting against this commission.

Unfortunately, that means that the investigation will be done by the same members of Congress who oversaw FEMA and wrote the federal budgets in the last several years. That's not good enough. We need a real review of what happened and how we can prevent similar tragedies in the future.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Sep. 14, 2005 at 3:09 pm
Comments: | Grow the Campaign -- Forward This to a Friend

5 Comments »

1. [...] This afternoon, Conrad Burns and 53 other Senate Republicans voted against an independent investigation into the federal, state, and local response to Hurricane Katrina. [link] [...]

   Pingback by Left in the West » Blog Archive » Independent Investigation on Katrina: Don't Hold Your Breath — September 14, 2005 @ 3:10 pm

2. It will be impossible to seperate the partisan arguments about who was responcible for the mess we are calling the responce to Katrina. Partisan lines have already been drawn in the sand - even by Nagan (a republican in democratic clothing - for those that don't know Nagan changed his party affiliation to Democrat because NO is primarily a democratic democraphic). The only hope we have of seeing some kind of forensic probe into Katrina is to have a bi-partisan panel (or better yet, a NON-partisan panel) look into it. This move by Congress is sad.

   Comment by Moorcat — September 14, 2005 @ 4:24 pm

3. Apologies, Moorcat, but I find you incorrect in your assessment. This move by the Senate Republicans wasn't sad, it was absolutely dispicable; and completely indicative of how much they value the lives and safety of the people they serve.

   Comment by Wulfgar — September 14, 2005 @ 5:07 pm

4. Wulfgar,

   I have to give you that. It does go beyond sad, though the word I would use for it is "criminal".

   Comment by Moorcat — September 15, 2005 @ 2:14 am

5. Further comments - With my wife getting ready to leave in about two weeks to aid the red cross effort in the area, I am finding I have little to no patience with the Blame Game - on either side of the aisle. I want to see a forensic style post mortum of this event and I want to see some real changes to the system. What if this had been our homes, our towns effected. What if it had been our families - thier lives uproots (and in many cases, lost) because of inept beaurocrats (sp?) and people being more worried about thier political carreers than the lives being lost. Sorry, political jockying is not acceptable to me at this point.

   Comment by Moorcat — September 15, 2005 @ 2:35 am

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The Road from Big Sandy to Washington, D.C.

From here, it looks like a long, winding road from Big Sandy to Washington, D.C. We've got quite a ways to go, but there are many unique places and remarkable people to see along the way. I've already started traveling across Montana, from the mountains to the plains, to talk with everyday folks from all walks of life about our shared values and vision for Montana and America.

You probably won't be too surprised about something I've been hearing:

It turns out that I'm not the only person in this state who thinks things could be going better for us in our nation's capital.

The fact of the matter is that politicians in Washington, D.C., aren't focusing on the right issues. Some of them want to privatize Social Security while most Americans face skyrocketing health insurance premiums. But when they finally do try to tackle an important issue, like rising gas prices, they do it by giving a break to some of America's wealthiest corporations at taxpayer expense. Our representatives should focus on issues that matter – like affordable health care for families, jobs, education and our economic and retirement security.

I'm running for U.S. Senate because I think before our government signs off on a bankruptcy bill that gives creditors the green light to go after working families, the government should fix its own financial house of cards. I think its about time to remind people in Washington, D.C., about what people out here in the rest of the country are worried about. These kitchen-table issues matter. And Conrad Burns and the current administration aren't getting the job done for Montana families.

For the past seven years, I've served in the Montana Legislature in both the minority and as the President of the Senate. We've accomplished a lot since winning back the Senate in 2004, from strengthening Montana's privacy laws to increasing funding for education, making health care more affordable and accessible and producing some serious plans for rural economic development.

I'll bring my experience as a citizen legislator and the beliefs we share as Montanans to the U.S. Senate. My first duty will be to represent the people I meet each and every day on the road to Washington.

It's going to be a long – and fun - trip. Thanks for joining me along the way.

Posted by **Jon Tester** on Aug. 28, 2005 at 2:50 pm
Comments: | Grow the Campaign -- Forward This to a Friend

5 Comments »

1. Good luck buddy! We need more people like you in Washington. I'll be following your progress and helping when I can.

   Comment by Alan — August 29, 2005 @ 11:15 am

2. Terrific!

   It appears I am about the be the first of what will undoubtedly one of the most successful candidate blogs in 2006. A step towards history.

   FWIW, this campaign was the recipient of my second ever political contribution–I look forward to winning both in 2006 (Cegelis & Tester).

   Finally, great move landing Matt & Matt to reach out to the netroots for you.

   Good luck!

   Tim

   Comment by ttagaris — August 29, 2005 @ 11:56 am

3. [...] linked to a good New West profile on Tester, and there is a diary running that folks are reading both onKos and it has been bumped to the front page of MyDD. I know there are some undeclared Democrats in our readershuip that are a little bit nervous about the money game. I think the fact that the liberal heavy hitters in the netroots are on to Tester, speaks volumes about where the money will be to beat back Burns. You may have noticed that Tester has also launched his own blog. [link] [...]

   Pingback by Left in the West » Blog Archive » Tester Takes the Top of Both MyDD and Kos — August 29, 2005 @ 2:10 pm

4. Hi Mr. Tester, Im sold and in your camp with the answer to one question.
   Whats your position on Iraq?

   Comment by Tony — August 29, 2005 @ 5:41 pm

5. I see no answer to the question above, I know the man may be busy but its just a question.

   Comment by Tony — September 11, 2005 @ 7:56 am

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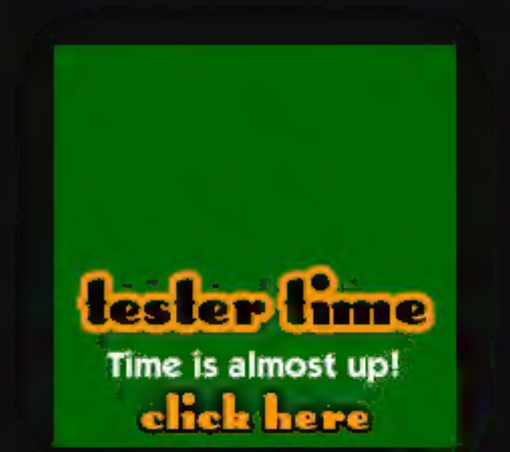
tester time
Time is almost up!
click here

Merry Christmas!

I'm sure most of you are finishing your traveling or (like me) your last minute shopping and wrapping. If you've got a couple minutes, though, consider reading Jon's take on the recent successful special session.

And enjoy the holidays!

Posted by **Guest Writer** on Dec. 22, 2005 at 12:16 pm
Comments: | Grow the Campaign -- Forward This to a Friend

No Comments »

No comments yet.

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Over 60% of the Way There

We've now raised over 60% of fundraising goal for December with over $6,100 coming in online.

Help finish the job!

Posted by **Guest Writer** on Dec. 19, 2005 at 10:54 am
Comments: | Grow the Campaign -- Forward This to a Friend

No Comments »

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Tester Calls Both Parties Ethics Reforms "Not Enough"

[Jon released the following Press Release earlier today.]

Tester Calls Both Parties Ethics Reforms "Not Enough"

Tester Announces He'll Live by Stricter Rules

Ethics changes proposed by Democrats and Republicans in Washington this week "are just not enough to change the "pay to play" culture of Washington," says Democratic candidate for U S Senate Jon Tester, who Thursday announced his plans to fight for and abide by far stricter ethics standards

"In the light of the Republican corruption scandals that Conrad Burns' relationship with Jack Abramoff have highlighted, Washington politicians of all stripes are scrambling to get behind anything they can call reform," Tester said "But the proposals I have seen this week are just not enough to change the 'pay to play' culture of Washington

"I'm all for strengthening rules, but it's even more important to change the culture of corruption We need to let Washington know now that the 'For Sale' sign has to come down, and Conrad Burns' days of 'pay to play' are ending," Tester said "But judging by how some of the so called reforms being discussed this week are already meeting resistance from Washington insiders senators and lobbyists I'm not going to hold my breath We simply can't trust the foxes to guard the henhouse and enact reforms

"What Montanans expect and deserve is a senator who can be counted on to bring Montana's values to Washington rather than abandoning those values once he gets there," Tester said "Today I'm announcing the rules I will live and work by, regardless of whether any of these other measures are passed And I pledge this I'll get tougher on ethics issues as time goes by, no matter who stands against me "

Tester released the following pledge

> I won't just pass a law, I'll set an example I will fight hard to put an end to the culture of corruption in Washington, and I'll live by a higher standard a Montana standard of honesty, integrity and personal responsibility And I'll ask a Montana judge to conduct an ethics audit of my office every year so Montanans know I'm living up to their expectations
>
> I'll ban all lobbyist gifts, meals and travel paid by outside sources All of it That includes travel, lodging and meals in conjunction with fundraisers I won't take personal favors from lobbyists, and neither will my staff
>
> I'll shut my door to former members and staff who try to cash in on their connections I will not allow my staff or myself to be lobbied by any former member of the Senate with whom I have served or by a former member of my staff who becomes a registered federal lobbyist And I'll work to expand the current ban on lobbying by former members and staff to three years to shut the revolving door for those who want to profit from the connections they made in public service
>
> I'll end secret meetings with lobbyists At the end of every business day I will post a list of every in office meeting that I or my staff has had with a lobbyist And I will work to require all lobbyists to declare on a publicly available website, on a weekly basis, every meeting they have with a member's office
>
> I'll work to end the anonymous 'earmarks' that allow a member of the Senate or the House to slip in a lobbyist's favorite pork barrel spending item without any accountability I'll fight my hardest for Montana and I'll do it openly And I'll use the bully pulpit of the Senate floor to call attention to every anonymous earmark.

- I'll close loopholes, not loosen them Those seeking special access to senators are like water they'll always seek out the cracks in the wall Lobbyists will always try to find a loophole, even on the strictest rules So I'll keep looking for ways to stop them, and the corrupt legislators they hope to influence

###

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jan 19, 2006 at 3 20 pm
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

8 Comments »

1. Excellent! Now how to get this information out to voters? Also, have you considered coupling this with an empowering call to Montanans? The way to take back government from crooked lobbyists and big money special interests is for lots of regular folks to kick in a few bucks each "What's an honest Senator worth to you?"

   Comment by Lindabee in mt January 19, 2006 @ 2.57 pm

2. Andy,
   Great to see you name here, I am glad that you are working on this campaign I am also glad to see this post, it is very clearly written from the perspective of someone outside of Washington This pledge in particular seems like a tall order

   > I'll shut my door to former members and staff who try to cash in on their connections .

   I would venture a guess that if Jon holds this office someday and stands by his pledge, that he would be the only person of 535 senators and representatives that pulls it off The power of relationships is strong and the culture in Washington does not promote a pledge like this Good luck.

   Comment by Gerik January 19, 2006 @ 3:47 pm

3. John
   You're on the right track. The campaign is all about getting rid of the current culture of corruption in Washington If you want an active campaign, then ask your constituents for their comments, take their comments seriously, respond to each comment, and spend most of your time listening to your constituents and very little time issuing vacuous meaningless political comments meant to please everyone and offend no one

   Comment by Sue Hoell January 19, 2006 @ 9:01 pm

4. Thanks for being on track with the importance of sunshine and much more complete and thorough disclosure, especially for all lobbyists but I like the posting on your door!
   Yes, we must stop the pork of anonymous earmarking!

   Comment by Joan Hurdle January 20, 2006 @ 8.54 am

5. We'll hold you to it!! Seriously, I believe in your honesty; that is one of the reasons I support you

   Comment by Renee Valley January 20, 2006 @ 9.16 am

6. You plan is good, but doesn't go far enough

   Ending lobbying corruption in Congress must include an end to the practice of earmarks, an inherently corrupt practice at which Conrad Burns has excelled

   Also, the practice of Congress passing continuing resolutions must be abolished so that the big omnibus appropriations bills cease (that are now signed by lawmakers without reading all or much of them) This would require that Congress get its work done on time (i e , all appropriations bills passed before 1 Oct of each year) like real businesses are forced to do

   Comment by Chris Busch January 20, 2006 @ 7.08 pm

7. Way to go Jon Your plan lays a sound foundation to build on Keep it going and build on the idea that members of Congress should be doing the peoples' work instead of worrying about raising money for the next and next election Your work and social ethics are what this country needs I'll be spreading this around and will be so proud to send you to D C Take Care and God Bless

   Comment by Patsy Shelden January 23, 2006 @ 7.38 am

8. I commend your determination to bring a higher level of ethics to dc (And I have donated to your campaign) However, I wonder how are you going to handle the situation where a former staffer and friend is a federal lobbyist They are a lobbyist for something that you have never been in favor of But the former staffer and current friend calls you up and wants to go out to dinner, supposedly just as friends Are you now going to turn them down, and turn them away as a friend by refusing to have any contact with them How are you going to handle a situation where someone takes a picture of you and that former staffer/friend eating dinner together and accuses you of violating your own ethical standards?

   Comment by Pat Moore January 29, 2006 @ 2.13 am

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Building Bridges

We found some compelling analysis on the changing political picture in Montana by Rick Bass in Grist Magazine yesterday. Writing about a new wilderness bill for Northwest Montana, Bass outlines the 2006 U.S. Senate contest in Montana:

> Burns' support and cosponsorship of the bill might be well advised — speaking of the circularity of things — in light of the fact that his likely Democratic challenger in 2006 might well embrace it first. That challenger is a crew-cut eastern Montanan, and sudden golden child of many progressives, named Jon Tester.
>
> Tester, who has served as president of the state Senate, would have to defeat fellow Democrat John Morrison — who, like Burns, boasts superior financing — in the primary this June to face Burns. Despite those odds, hopes are riding on him. Interestingly, despite the green credibility garnered by the conversion of his family's farm to an organic operation, the energy surrounding his campaign is not environmentally driven. Instead, **it seems fueled by general idealism, the desire for a certain cleanness and integrity.**
>
> The high-dollar organic grains are about as wild and crazy, as progressive, as Tester gets, which seems to be just about the amount Montanans are pining for these days: not the regressive howlings of Newt Gingrich's "Contract with America" politics, and not the old-school progressivism of politicians like Williams, yet. **Like Schweitzer, Tester is homegrown;** he knows that guns in Montana are not the same as guns in the inner city. Maybe a word for these new Montana Democrats might be transgressive — easing, edging, into the future, and moving, finally, out of the past, even as they carry certain useful and beloved elements of it with them.
>
> Whoever emerges from the spring primary should have an interesting shot, given the Montana tilt toward the Democratic Party, and the negative ratings of Burns, who, this year more than ever, has a reputation as a bridge burner. The latter tack will always be able to rally a certain core constituency, but what if — after 20 years — he is behind the times, and Montanans decide they would rather build bridges than burn them?

Sick of burning bridges and ethically challenged politics? So are we! Show your support for Jon Tester today, and help us bring honesty and personal responsibility to the U.S. Senate.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jan. 19, 2006 at 3:15 pm
Comments: Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

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Havre Daily News: Burns an Embarassment to Montana

The Havre Daily News follows Conrad Burns' tracks through the national media in an opinion piece and concludes our Junior Senator "has embarassed this state" due to his dealings with Jack Abramoff. The editors encourage Montanans to look into the facts surrounding the investigation before believing Burns' advertising hype.

The piece concludes by calling out Conrad's "aw shucks" strategy:

> Rather than respond to legitimate questions, Burns would rather have us all think that he's just a simple country boy and that we're just a bunch of simple country folk.
>
> He isn't, and we aren't.

Conrad Burns is implicated up in a complex web of Beltway deals that's far from country and even farther from simple. He has taken more money from Jack Abramoff, his clients, and his associates than anyone else in Congress.

Time for a change? Take a look at Jon Tester's ethics proposal- a simple plan to bring ethics back to the U.S. Senate.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jan. 31, 2006 at 3:34 pm
Comments: Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

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Fighting for Choice...and Responsibility

[Jon sent the following email to members of the campaign earlier this morning.]

Over the last five years, radical activists have been waging a stealth campaign targeting reproductive freedom and the choice they are targeting is whether Americans should be able to plan their families

We're not talking about access to abortion We're talking about access to contraception

Contraception shouldn't be a controversial issue It prevents unintended pregnancies and prevents abortions

Indeed, it's the very medical breakthrough that has made widespread responsible family planning possible

It wasn't until the mid 1960s that women had legal access to contraception Now women and families need to have access to contraception in health coverage

Yet today there is a quiet war being waged regarding access to contraception And here in Montana, most insurance plans don't cover birth control, even when they cover Viagra

I don't think that's right.

I have requested a legal opinion from the Attorney General of Montana to clarify whether insurance companies that provide prescription drug coverage must also, by law, cover contraception

I think we have a good case and that we'll prevail on this issue The law is on our side That's good

This is an issue of fairness and basic health for Montanans It also gets to the heart of Montana values freedom, choice, and responsibility This is about making sure women and families have access to health coverage and Montanans can make their own decisions

That means that soon, in Montana, women and families will have the insurance coverage they need and deserve

That's the sort of thing we should all be able to agree on

Sincerely,

Jon Tester

PS Help us bring Montana values to Washington by forwarding this email to your friends and family, and asking them to join the campaign at http://www.testerforsenate.com/join/ Or make a financial contribution at: http://www.testerforsenate.com/contribute/

Posted by **Jon Tester** on Nov 04, 2005 at 11 00 am
Comments 1 Comment | Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

Trusting Big Sandy Over Washington, D.C.

You might have seen it last week, a little article in the *National Journal*, Washington, D C 's, most insider publication, that said that any candidate seen with Big Sandy's Jeff Ament and Pearl Jam was a surefire loser in Montana

Quite frankly, I was a little ticked off But I didn't give it much thought because taking advice on winning elections from Washington, D C , can be a bit like taking a business ethics class from Jack Abramoff, the Washington lobbyist tied to Conrad Burns and under indictment for wire fraud and conspiracy

But then one of my primary opponents, John Morrison, decided that he needed to distribute this article across the state of Montana

Let me tell you this **I don't like Washington insiders telling me I can't be seen with my old friends from Big Sandy** Montanans stick together, and don't forget friends just because some D C insider thinks that friends are disposable That's not the Montana way

I grew up with Jeff Ament of Pearl Jam Jeff is a Big Sandy boy like me His father was Mayor, and gave me my first flattop haircut. I taught Jeff's sisters and brother music in school And Jeff and I used to play pickup basketball games together

Jeff has been fortunate to make a good living doing what he loves playing music Year after year he gives back to the people and youth of Montana, the state he still calls home today

I'm running for the U S Senate because I think Conrad Burns has lost touch with this state I sure won't forget my Montana values and roots and family and friends

That's a promise This Montana farmer knows what matters I'm running to represent Montanans all Montanans And, yes, even my friend from Big Sandy, Jeff Ament, can count on me too

Posted by **Jon Tester** on Oct. 10, 2005 at 2.41 pm
Comments 3 Comments | Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

You Did it Thank You

[Jon Tester sent the following email to members of the campaign today. To sign up to receive updates from the campaign, click here.]

Your response and the result of your efforts is amazing.

At the end of June, Montanans for Tester had raised just over $55,000 and had just a few hundred known supporters around the state

The pundits wondered if we could win this race

You've shown them the answer is YES and in just three short months you have built a statewide campaign strong enough to **win the Democratic primary in June** and **defeat Conrad Burns next November**

We're still tallying the final numbers of our fundraising efforts If you made a financial contribution this quarter, **I want to thank you** we know we've exceeded our internal goals thanks to your incredible efforts

But all of you have played a critical role in getting us to where we are—and I am deeply grateful for every person's efforts Whether by joining this email list. . recruiting your friends . going to the Pearl Jam show in Missoula or volunteering your time or giving your hard earned money, **you have been the heart and soul and reason for our campaign's success so far.** None of this would be possible without you

We'll be reporting the final fundraising numbers to the FEC in a few weeks but I didn't want to wait to express my deepest appreciation for everything everyone has done We've gotten to this incredible place because of your efforts, and next November we'll send Montana values to Washington, D C the same way by **working together**

Thank you for everything you do,

Jon Tester

Posted by **Guest Writer** on Oct. 01, 2005 at 9:45 am
Comments None | Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

The Road from Big Sandy to Washington, D.C.

From here, it looks like a long, winding road from Big Sandy to Washington, D C We've got quite a ways to go, but there are many unique places and remarkable people to see along the way I've already started traveling across Montana, from the mountains to the plains, to talk with everyday folks from all walks of life about our shared values and vision for Montana and America

You probably won't be too surprised about something I've been hearing:

It turns out that I'm not the only person in this state who thinks things could be going better for us in our nation's capital

The fact of the matter is that politicians in Washington, D C , aren't focusing on the right issues Some of them want to privatize Social Security while most Americans face skyrocketing health insurance premiums But when they finally do try to tackle an important issue, like rising gas prices, they do it by giving a break to some of America's wealthiest corporations at taxpayer expense Our representatives should focus on issues that matter like affordable health care for families, jobs, education and our economic and retirement security

I'm running for U S Senate because I think before our government signs off on a bankruptcy bill that gives creditors the green light to go after working families, the government should fix its own financial house of cards I think its about time to remind people in Washington, D C , about what people out here in the rest of the country are worried about. These kitchen table issues matter And Conrad Burns and the current administration aren't getting the job done for Montana families

For the past seven years, I've served in the Montana Legislature in both the minority and as the President of the Senate We've accomplished a lot since winning back the Senate in 2004, from strengthening Montana's privacy laws to increasing funding for education, making health care more affordable and accessible and producing some serious plans for rural economic development.

I'll bring my experience as a citizen legislator and the beliefs we share as Montanans to the U S Senate My first duty will be to represent the people I meet each and every day on the road to Washington

It's going to be a long and fun trip Thanks for joining me along the way

Posted by **Jon Tester** on Aug 28, 2005 at 2.50 pm
Comments 5 Comments | Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

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Tribes Reject Tainted Burns Abramoff Money

USA Today has the latest on Conrad Burns' attempts to run from Jack Abramoff and his associates' campaign contributions. The Montana Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council has refused the cash, and the Great Falls Tribune reports that the Blackfeet Community College has refused the money as well.

From the USA Today piece:

> WASHINGTON (AP) — The Montana Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council has rejected a $111,000 donation from the campaign of Montana Sen. Conrad Burns, with some saying the money is tainted because it originally came from lobbyist Jack Abramoff and his clients.
>
> James Steele Jr., also chairman of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, said yesterday that the council voted not to accept the donation, which was made up of contributions from Abramoff, his associates and his tribal clients.
>
> In a statement Wednesday, Burns campaign chairman Mark Baker called the decision "disappointing" and said Burns would redirect most of the funds to the tribes that originally donated the money. Burns, a Republican, said in December that he would give away and return $146,700 in donations in order to avoid the appearance of improper connections to Abramoff, who pleaded guilty two weeks ago to federal corruption charges.
>
> Abramoff admitted to conspiring to defraud Indian tribes, which he sometimes directed to make contributions to lawmakers. Since his plea agreement, many lawmakers have rushed to donate money connected to him and his clients or return it.
>
> "To us it's tainted money," Doney said Wednesday. "If he wanted us to have extra money, he would have given it to us in other ways."

So, Senator Burns cannot return the tainted money to the tribes who donated to his campaign and Montana tribes are refusing the funds. Check back to see where the money ends up.

Here's an idea - maybe we can use Senator Burns' backpedaling on Abramoff donations to power our state in the face of global warming. Conrad's backpedaling is certainly a renewable resource—but probably not the cleanest power we might find.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jan. 19, 2006 at 3:10 pm
Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

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Web Ad Holds Burns' Feet to the Fire

Earlier this week Montana Newspapers reported on our Web Ad in response to Conrad Burns' media buy. Buzz about the ad is spreading truth about Conrad Burns' relationship to Jack Abramoff. Montanans are sick and tired of the culture of corruption in Washington D.C. And, with $200,000 in airtime, they're probably growing sick of Senator Burns' political spin during the nightly news.

The Billings Gazette piece covering our Web Ad includes a response from National Republican Senitorial Committee. Their spokesman, Brian Nick, dodges the content of the ad, chosing to attack Democrats instead.

Montanans have demanded Conrad Burns explain his dealings with Jack Abramoff. We've pushed our Junior Senator to explain his stance on Social Security privatization and his votes on Amtrak and pesticide testing.

And in return, we're served political spin.

If you haven't already, take a look at the ad on our website.

Like what you see? Help us spread the truth by signing up to volunteer, or making a contribution today.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jan. 31, 2006 at 11:59 am
Comments: 1 Comment | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Setting the Record Straight

[Jon Tester sent the following email to campaign members this morning. To sign up to receive free campaign alerts, click here.]

If you've been around a TV anywhere in Montana lately, you've seen Conrad Burns' latest twist of his relationship with Washington lobbyists.

Senator Burns says he's setting the record straight on his relationship with disgraced lobbyist Jack Abramoff. But his ad is straight up political spin.

We put together a response to Senator Burns that offers what all Montanans deserve: the truth.

View the video response, "Setting the Record Straight."

http://www.testerforsenate.com/video/BurnsVideo.htm

Read a transcript and factsheet of the video (opens in PDF).

http://www.testerforsenate.com/video/SettingtheRecordStraight.pdf

Conrad Burns has lost touch with Montana. These days, he seems more likely to fight for powerful Washington interests than Montana working families concerned about jobs, health care, education, and high energy costs.

The culture of corruption and cronyism in Washington has to end. We need a Senator who's willing to take on the powerful interests to fight and get the work done for Montanans and Americans, not K Street lobbyists who pay to play in the halls of Congress.

Conrad Burns has dropped more than $200,000 on media all over Montana to spin his relationship with Jack Abramoff. But you can help counter his attempts to distort the truth by forwarding this message to a friend. And help us continue to set the record straight by making a contribution today.

Thank you for all that you do.

Jon Tester

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jan. 27, 2006 at 10:57 am
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Already Going Well

11:00 AM 12:45 PM
~~$645.02~~ $2,075.03
~~11 Donors~~ 17 Donors

Well, Jon asked and the grassroots are already answering. As of 11:00 AM, we're at over $600 raised and the message has only been out for an hour.

Thanks everyone and please, keep it coming.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Dec. 07, 2005 at 11:58 am
Comments: 1 Comment | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Commenter Matching Fund

Bill Section 147, a commenter at Daily Kos, has offered to match up to 20 individual $10 contributions to this campaign. If you've thought about giving a little and want it to count double, that's too good of an offer to refuse.

See his comment for details.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Sep. 30, 2005 at 2:15 pm
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Asking for Answers is Fair

Two days ago, in the same email I highlighted below, Jon brought a little attention to a new report titled "Beyond Delay: The 13 Most Corrupt Members of Congress". The reason he raised this report is that Montana's junior Senator, Conrad Burns, is featured along with 10 other Republicans and 2 Democrats as one of the 13.

That's quite the prize.

The report focuses on still unanswered questions about the relationship between Conrad Burns' office and notorious Washington lobbyist Jack Abramoff.

Yesterday, two men in Florida who have connections to Jack Abramoff were arrested on murder charges. The charges brought in the death of the former owner of SunCruz casinos. The man was killed while trying to get his company back from Jack Abramoff.

SunCruz may sound familiar because two of Conrad Burns' staffers — his Chief of Staff and his Appropriations staffer — took a vacation on SunCruz casinos before going to the Super Bowl on a trip paid for with Abramoff's money.

All of this sounds like something we're still not too proud to be part of.

Which is why Jon is speaking out again today to our email list (and in a diary posted at both MyDD and at the Daily Kos).

(Now former) House Majority Leader Tom DeLay was indicted today. There's a stench running through most of Washington, but as Jon notes, it's our responsibility to clean it up.

> But let me tell you something. I've been a farmer my entire life, and I can tell you from experience that no matter how hard you try, you can't convince a hog to shovel its own bull.
>
> By the same token, we can't expect those in Washington to clean up to corruption in Washington.
>
> It's going to take all of us standing up and saying, enough is enough. We deserve a government better than this.

He's right. We get the government we work for. Right now, you might say that we've got the government we deserve. Let's work harder and get the government we want.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Sep. 28, 2005 at 2:53 pm
Comments: 2 Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

End of Quarter Coming: 3 Ways to Help

The end of the third quarter is quickly approaching. There's three easy things you can do at this point to help this campaign.

1. Join our email list. Hear directly from Jon about his opinion on the issues and find out the latest news about the campaign.
2. Sign the Energy Petition. Join Jon's call for America to embrace a real energy policy, one that diversifies our energy base, strengthens rural economies, and provides cleaner alternatives.
3. Donate. Running for office is expensive these days. Lend a hand and help us get Jon elected.

That new poll out last week shows we've made some great gains over the summer. Help us keep that momentum going this fall.

Jon sent an email today to a number of people who came to the Pearl Jam concert last month. Check it out after the jump.

(more...)

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Sep. 22, 2005 at 1:36 pm
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

The Countdown Starts Today

Bill Lombardi sent out an email to the campaign list today:

> We've come a long way in the last four months.
>
> When Jon Tester announced his campaign in late May, our main primary opponent was well on his way to raising $400,000 at a time when we didn't even have a bank account. Polls showed us with little name recognition, pulling just 26 percent of the vote in a hypothetical election. And we didn't even have an email list—just a list of people that Jon had promised to call when he made the decision to run.
>
> But thanks to you, we've come a long way, and the momentum is building. A new poll shows Jon has gone from 26 percent in May to 38 percent support today in a hypothetical match up. In the last two months, your efforts to recruit friends and family have doubled the size of our campaign. And just three weeks ago, we pulled off one of the biggest political rallies in Montana's history at the Pearl Jam show in Missoula.
>
> But the next two weeks are the most important weeks we've faced so far, and we need to demonstrate to the press, pundits and D.C. insiders that the grassroots momentum building behind our campaign can speak to them in the only language they understand: the language of money.
>
> Next Friday, September 30th, is the third quarter deadline for FEC fundraising purposes. How well we do will send a loud message about the strength of our campaign, and about your commitment to sending a working Montanan to represent you in Washington. Please contribute what you can today.
>
> I know money is tight for many Montanans. Conrad Burns' high roller big donors don't feel the pinch of gasoline near $3 a gallon and skyrocketing natural gas prices as winter approaches. Conrad Burns has consistently voted against the interests of working Montanans, voting to give tax breaks to oil companies at a time when many Montanans are struggling to fill up the gas tank.
>
> The truth is, we can't afford to keep Conrad Burns in Washington any longer. Please contribute what you can and help us throw Burns out.
>
> (more...)

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Sep. 19, 2005 at 11:24 am
Comments: 1 Comment | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Sign the Petition: Time for a Real Energy Policy

It's long past due that we have a real energy policy in this country. Congress already passed one bill this summer, but it was largely handouts to an industry that is already reaping record profits. Now, in one of the few silver linings emerging from Hurricane Katrina, there is a growing consensus in Washington, DC that the last energy bill wasn't enough, as *The Hill* reported this morning.

Sign the Petition for a Real Energy Policy.

Unfortunately, Republican leaders are already leaning toward another round of handouts to the same oil companies experiencing record profits and coming under scrutiny both here in Montana and in Washington due to allegations of price gouging.

Here in Montana, we took a different approach last legislative session. We started moving toward a more diverse approach to energy, tapping wind energy and ethanol as a way to build long term alternatives to the same old energy sources.

Sign the Petition for a Real Energy Policy.

Our leaders in Washington, DC, should roll up their sleeves and follow suit with an energy policy that promotes alternatives to oil, conservation and efficiency as real goals to lower costs in the long term, and developing energy sources that will bring better jobs to rural America.

This is the right policy for America's economic security. And it's the right policy for America's national security.

Please, join Jon today in calling for us to take advantage of this opportunity.

Sign the Petition for a Real Energy Policy.

Also, if you want to hear about these opportunities and others, make sure you join the campaign email list — the single best source for information on this campaign.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Sep. 08, 2005 at 12:51 pm
Comments: 1 Comment | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Condolences

Jon released the following statement today:

> Statement of Montana Senate President Jon Tester on the loss of Bette Bohlinger and Frank Morrison
>
> "Bette Bohlinger and Frank Morrison will be remembered as distinguished Montanans and friends to the people of this state. I extend my deepest condolences to Lieutenant Governor John Bohlinger, State Auditor John Morrison and their families in this time of great loss."

Posted by **Guest Writer** on Jan. 09, 2006 at 4:45 pm
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

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Introducing...

January brings a new year and new energy to TesterTime and Montanans for Tester. Matt Singer has moved on to new employment and I will be part of the group contributing regularly over the coming months with commentary, political news, and updates from inside the campaign.

I first met Jon Tester in 2004 on the campaign trail while supporting legislative races in Rural Montana and was proud to work with him at the Montana Senate in 2005. After seeing Jon lead the State Senate in a new direction after a decade of Republican control, I know he will serve Montanans well in Washington D.C. as our next U.S. Senator.

I have to say, it is an honor to step into Matt Singer's shoes here at TesterTime—we wish him well in his new position with PLAN, the Progressive Legislative Action Network. Thanks for all your help, Matt.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jan. 10, 2006 at 2:23 pm
Comments: Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

3 Comments »

1. Welcome, Andy. Keep the new content coming.

   Comment by Lindabee in mt — January 10, 2006 @ 4:23 pm

2. Nice to see you here, Andy!

   Comment by Don Pogreba — January 10, 2006 @ 7:28 pm

3. Hey, I just saw this. Thanks and good luck on the campaign. You're quite the catch.

   Comment by Guest Writer — January 11, 2006 @ 11:53 am

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Web Ad Holds Burns' Feet to the Fire

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And in return, we're served political spin.

If you haven't already, take a look at the ad on our website.

Like what you see? Help us spread the truth by signing up to volunteer, or making a contribution today.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jan. 31, 2006 at 11:59 am
Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

1 Comment »

1. **Web Ad Holds Burns' Feet to the Fire**

   Did the Abramoff scandal involve Amtrak votes?...

   Trackback by Travel Blog — February 5, 2006 @ 10:39 pm

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Jon Sends a "Loud and Clear" Message to the Democratic Party

Check out Jon's latest diary at Daily Kos In it, he reflects on the legislative session, the special session, and the effectiveness of politics of principle

He also highlights *The Nation*'s latest editorial, in which the magazine says that the election of candidates like Jon won't just send a signal to Washington that times are changing, but also send a message to the Democratic Party

It's a must-read

Also, if you haven't had a chance yet, you should check out Governor Schweitzer's talk following the special session, you should check it out. He has some high words of praise for our man Jon Tester

Honestly, check it out and share it with your friends

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Dec 29, 2005 at 3 18 pm
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

2 Comments »

1. Great rallying cry from Jon Glad to see it and his position on "The Patriot Act" Real Progressives want us out of Iraq, both military and, as John Edwards has called for, the contractors who are the real source of aggravation I would like to see Jon's take on Alito and a more detailed plan for working towards a healthcare system that works beyond the bandaids of lowering the cost of prescription drugs Good start, but we need Universal heathcare True progressives also put election reform at the top of every platform We need to get the money out of politics I will give money if I know it will go towards town forums instead of stupid TV ads that only make the ad agencies wealthy True progressives are dedicated to equality and justice for all, as our founders intended It's time that the corporations paid their share and those making $35,000 or less be free from taxes Breaking the power of capital is what progressivism is Not just a less icky name than liberal

   Comment by Montana Maven December 30, 2005 @ 9.10 am

2. Jon, I'm a native Nebraskan who's dedicating most of his blood and sweat (not too mention money) to our wonderful Democratic candidates here in the Cornhusker state, but you're courage and dedication has convinced me to scrounge up a hunred dollars to donate to your noble efforts way out there in Big Sky country God willing, there will be more coming soon Thank you and good luck!

   Comment by Ryan Anderson December 30, 2005 @ 11:09 pm

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News Roundup – Cleaning Up the Culture of Corruption

Montanans for Tester hit the ground running and earned national media attention in the first week of 2006. Jon's call for an end to the culture of corruption in Washington D.C. was featured in recent news articles.

In The Guardian yesterday, commentator Gary Younge discusses the Abramoff plea agreement and highlights Jon Tester's efforts to bring integrity to the U.S. Senate.

From the story:

> "'This kind of politics,' said Democrat Jon Tester, 'doesn't really represent the rank and file folks that are out there every day trying to make ends meet.' Tester is challenging Montana's Republican senator, Conrad Burns, who had close ties to Abramoff."

The author doesn't pull any punches and criticizes many members of congress from both sides of the aisle for their deep ties to the pocketbooks of corporate lobbyists. As President of the Montana Senate, Jon Tester worked to help main street businesses, develop renewable energy, and bring meaningful prescription drug coverage to Montanans. Tester has always demonstrated his commitment to the needs of everyday Montanans and shown he can counteract the pay-to-play political game in government.

Last week, the Los Angeles Times also commented on the "culture of corruption" in the Republican Congress. Ronald Brownstein's piece cites Tester's efforts to bring accountability and honest leadership to Washington D.C.

The Great Falls Tribune also featured words from Tester on cleaning up government.

> "Senate President Jon Tester, D-Big Sandy, one of the four, called the Abramoff plea 'sad.'
>
> 'What this indicates is that the culture of corruption in Washington, D.C., is real and it needs to be cleaned up,' Tester said. 'Those congressmen who are affiliated with this pay-to-play situation need to be replaced with people who have integrity and honesty and want to represent the people of Montana.'"

It's time for honest leadership for Montana in the U.S. Senate. Join the campaign by signing up for our email list, volunteering, or making a contribution today.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jan. 10, 2006 at 2:32 pm
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Tester Stands Up for Fair Wages

[Jon released the following statement earlier today.]

> Tester: "Minimum Wage Initiative is 'Moral Necessity'"
>
> *"If you work full time, you should make fair wage. That's common sense."*
>
> January 10, 2006 (BIG SANDY, MT) – U.S. Senate candidate Jon Tester today endorsed the citizens' initiative to raise Montana's minimum wage by a dollar an hour, from $5.15 to $6.15 an hour.
>
> "The minimum wage initiative speaks to whether we value work," Tester said. "Raising Montana's minimum wage to $6.15 an hour will allow more workers to support their families, more families to make ends meet, and more Montanans to go to work instead of going on welfare. That saves taxpayers' money."
>
> The initiative could be placed on the November 2006 ballot.
>
> "Polls show that Montanans want this," Tester said. "But I don't need a poll to tell me it's the right thing to do. The last time Montanans tried to raise the minimum wage, special interests helped defeat it. I'll do everything I can to make sure that doesn't happen this year. Montana's working families deserve a raise."
>
> Montana, Tester noted, ranked dead last – 50th in the nation in annual average wages for its workers from 1999 through 2004. And Montana ranked third nationally in 2004 for multiple job holders (holding two or more jobs) as a percentage of total employment in the state, Tester added.
>
> Tester has fought for a boost in the minimum wage.
>
> In the 2005 Legislature, under Senate President Tester's leadership, the Montana Senate passed Senate Bill 78, which would have increased Montana's minimum wage to $6.00 an hour. Tester voted for the bill. But the measure was defeated in the evenly divided Montana House of Representatives on a party-line vote.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jan. 10, 2006 at 2:36 pm
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

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Tester Beats Morrison, Ties Against Burns

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Your hard work is paying off

The latest Rasmussen Reports poll of Montana voters out today shows Jon Tester tied with Conrad Burns, 45 percent to 45 percent.

The same poll shows that Conrad Burn would beat State Auditor John Morrison, 46 percent to 43 percent.

That's a double digit gain for our campaign in less than four months. As the Rasmussen Report says:

> [Burns'] re-election effort is apparently suffering from lobbyist Jack Abramoff's guilty plea and widely publicized agreement ... to cooperate in the investigation of congressmen who may also have broken the law. [Conrad Burns] recently returned $150,000 in contributions from Abramoff.

But while Conrad Burns' entanglement with Jack Abramoff and special-interest lobbyist money may be turning off voters, it's your grassroots effort and support that are truly propelling Jon Tester's campaign.

Every email you've forwarded, every friend you've asked to join our email list, every dollar you've contributed has gotten us to where we are today.

But we can't let up. The Burns campaign hopes to throw $10 million of their special interest lobbyist money into this race, and they'll do anything to hang on to their seat.

So please, take a moment to redouble your efforts. Forward this email on to your friends and family, and ask them to join you in supporting Jon Tester for U.S. Senate. And if you are able, consider making a contribution to the campaign today:

http://www.testerforsenate.com/contribute/

We've gained incredible momentum. Keep up the hard work ... and together we'll send Montana values to Washington, D.C., in November.

Bill Lombardi
Montanans for Tester

(Also posted at Daily Kos.)

Posted by **Guest Writer** on Jan. 11, 2006 at 11:12 am
Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

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No on Alito

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I wanted to take a moment to share with you my views on the Senate's upcoming vote to confirm or reject Samuel Alito's nomination to replace Sandra Day O'Connor on the U S Supreme Court.

After careful consideration, I have come to the conclusion that the U S Senate needs to reject the nomination of Samuel Alito

There are simply too many reasons to doubt this nomination and not enough reasons to have faith in it.

For example when applying for a job, Judge Alito made it clear that he disagreed legally with such fundamental Constitutional principles as the right of one person, one vote

Yet without the fundamental belief in America that we are all created equal under the law, we can have no justice

I'm also deeply disappointed by Judge Alito's broken promises to the U S Senate When confirmed to sit on a circuit court, Judge Alito said that he would recuse himself from cases involving certain parties where he had a vested interest. Yet he failed to do that.

Simply put, Samuel Alito is the wrong person for the court, and the wrong person for our country

Judge Alito was reported out of the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday on a straight party line vote, which shows just how partisan President Bush's choice for the Supreme Court really is

And if Judge Alito becomes the same judge on the Supreme Court that he was on the Court of Appeals, we all could see more government intrusion in our daily lives, broader presidential power without checks and balances, and a reduced right to privacy And as we Montanans know, we pride ourselves on our constitutional right to privacy

That's why we need an independent Supreme Court to

- Protect the system of checks and balances that protects the Constitution and our democracy
- Protect Americans from a presidential abuse of power
- And uphold the rule of law

That's why I believe the U S Senate needs to reject the nomination of Samuel Alito

Thank you for your continued support,

Jon Tester

P S Please forward this email to your friends and family and ask them to join you in supporting our campaign They can join for free by visiting http://www.testerforsenate.com/join/

Posted by **Guest Writer** on Jan 26, 2006 at 11 21 am
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

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Senator Burns says he's setting the record straight on his relationship with disgraced lobbyist Jack Abramoff But his ad is straight-up political spin

We put together a response to Senator Burns that offers what all Montanans deserve — the truth

View the video response, "Setting the Record Straight"

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Conrad Burns has lost touch with Montana These days, he seems more likely to fight for powerful Washington interests than Montana working families concerned about jobs, health care, education, and high energy costs

The culture of corruption and cronyism in Washington has to end We need a Senator who's willing to take on the powerful interests to fight and get the work done for Montanans and Americans, not K Street lobbyists who pay to play in the halls of Congress

Conrad Burns has dropped more than $200,000 on media all over Montana to spin his relationship with Jack Abramoff But you can help counter his attempts to distort the truth by forwarding this message to a friend And help us continue to set the record straight by making a contribution today

Thank you for all that you do

Jon Tester

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jan 27, 2006 at 10:57 am
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

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Jon Tester

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Posted by **Guest Writer** on Jan. 26, 2006 at 11:21 am
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

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We've gained incredible momentum. Keep up the hard work — and together we'll send Montana values to Washington, D.C., in November.

Bill Lombardi
Montanans for Tester

(Also posted at Daily Kos.)

Posted by **Guest Writer** on Jan. 11, 2006 at 11:12 am
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Over 60% of the Way There

We've now raised over 60% of fundraising goal for December with over $6,100 coming in online.

Help finish the job!

Posted by **Guest Writer** on Dec. 19, 2005 at 10:54 am
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Help Us Wrap Montana in Blue!

[Note: Jon sent the following email out today. To sign up to receive emails, click here.]

When the Holidays are over, we'll be just six months out until Primary Day.

I want to thank you for all your support already. Together, we've helped move the debate forward on Iraq, on our nation's energy policy, and on the Medicare prescription drug plan. And we've sent a strong message to Senator Burns that he needs to protect public access to public lands for all Montanans — and that we Montanans don't want our public lands sold off.

In the next six months, I'll continue to stand up for the values that we share. And I'll continue to lay out my platform for working families in Montana.

But to win on Primary Day, and defeat Conrad Burns in November, we need to take our campaign to the next level by ramping up our grassroots field efforts. Our goal is to raise $10,000 for our field efforts, so we can "wrap Montana in blue" next year.

http://www.testerforsenate.com/december/

Our support across the state is strong. We have volunteers chomping at the bit to win the primary and send Conrad Burns packing in November. But we need your commitment today to empower our grassroots support in the New Year. Please, consider making a special gift to our campaign at this time.

We already know what our opponents plan to do in this race. They plan to raise as much money from high dollar sources as they can, hoping that their bundles of money will conceal how out of touch they are with working Montanans.

But we are going to beat them the old fashioned Montana way — by spreading the word, neighbor to neighbor, and letting people know that in 2006 we have the opportunity to send real Montana values to Washington.

But we need your support to get that word out. Please, donate today, and help us meet our goal.

Together, we'll Wrap Montana in Blue for 2006.

Jon Tester

[Cross posted at Daily Kos.]

Posted by **Guest Writer** on Dec. 07, 2005 at 10:05 am
Comments: 2 Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

The War in Iraq

As many of you saw in the email, Jon laid out a policy for Iraq today. A more complete description of his reasoning is available at TesterForSenate.com.

Feel free to use the comments thread here to discuss the stance.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Nov. 09, 2005 at 9:45 am
Comments: 11 Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Fighting for Choice...and Responsibility

[Jon sent the following email to members of the campaign earlier this morning.]

Over the last five years, radical activists have been waging a stealth campaign targeting reproductive freedom — and the choice they are targeting is whether Americans should be able to plan their families.

We're not talking about access to abortion. We're talking about access to contraception.

Contraception shouldn't be a controversial issue. It prevents unintended pregnancies and prevents abortions.

Indeed, it's the very medical breakthrough that has made widespread responsible family planning possible.

It wasn't until the mid-1960s that women had legal access to contraception. Now women and families need to have access to contraception in health coverage.

Yet today there is a quiet war being waged regarding access to contraception. And here in Montana, most insurance plans don't cover birth control, even when they cover Viagra.

I don't think that's right.

I have requested a legal opinion from the Attorney General of Montana to clarify whether insurance companies that provide prescription drug coverage must also, by law, cover contraception.

I think we have a good case and that we'll prevail on this issue. The law is on our side. That's good.

This is an issue of fairness and basic health for Montanans. It also gets to the heart of Montana values — freedom, choice, and responsibility. This is about making sure women and families have access to health coverage and Montanans can make their own decisions.

That means that soon, in Montana, women and families will have the insurance coverage they need and deserve.

That's the sort of thing we should all be able to agree on.

Sincerely,

Jon Tester

PS: Help us bring Montana values to Washington by forwarding this email to your friends and family, and asking them to join the campaign at http://www.testerforsenate.com/join/. Or make a financial contribution at: http://www.testerforsenate.com/contribute/

Posted by **Jon Tester** on Nov. 04, 2005 at 11:00 am
Comments: 1 Comment | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

The Gazette Nails it: Rotten Politics at Work

The *Billings Gazette* editorial page this morning nails it on Country of Origin Labeling. They note that virtually everything except meat has a nice label explaining where it came from, but what we do for tortilla companies, we can't do for American ranchers for some reason.

But the problem isn't necessarily the commitment of Montana or Wyoming Republicans. It's that their party leadership in Washington is so beholden to special interests that they won't even pay attention to members of their own caucus.

> Wyoming's U.S. senators, Mike Enzi and Craig Thomas, both Republicans, jointly called for conferees to block efforts to delay COOL. The Wyoming duo has introduced legislation to move up labeling implementation to January 2006. Rep. Denny Rehberg, R-Mont., also has been a vocal proponent of COOL. Likewise, U.S. Sen. Conrad Burns last week said he is "furious" with the latest delay. But these Montana and Wyoming Republicans have been unable to sway their party.
>
> In Montana, state Sen. Jon Tester, D-Big Sandy, a candidate for the Senate seat Burns now holds, was the chief sponsor of Montana COOL legislation that was signed into law to take effect next year, if the federal law doesn't.

When Democrats took back the reins of power here in Montana, it took the leadership of Jon Tester, Brian Schweitzer, and Bob Bergren one session to deliver on COOL. We've been waiting 4 years at the federal level. It looks like it might be time for change in Washington.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Nov. 02, 2005 at 10:04 am
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Burns Knows He Has a Real Race on His Hands

from Bill Lombardi

"In the staid halls of the U.S. Senate, Montana Republican Conrad Burns is known for his booming voice and his cheery, back-slapping confidence. But when it comes to talking about his upcoming bid for re-election, his demeanor turns more serious."

Associated Press, 10/29/05

Just in case you didn't see it, there's an article in this morning's *Great Falls Tribune* you need to check out.

When you read the article, you see that Senator Burns is acknowledging what Jon Tester has been talking about since day one in this campaign:
Health care is too expensive, energy prices are too high, and we need a change in direction in this country.

But after seventeen years in Washington, it doesn't look like Senator Burns has a solution on any of these fronts.

The fact is that while Senator Burns at the end points out that he's in Washington, that he's got seniority, and that he's in the majority, he still has trouble pointing to anything he's done about these two most pressing problems facing Montana: health care costs and energy prices.

The fact is that back here in Montana, Jon Tester has been a leader on both of these issues, passing new health insurance and prescription drug plans and taking the lead in diversifying our energy portfolio and decreasing our dependence on foreign oil.

The fact of the matter is that Conrad Burns is worried about Jon Tester. Where Burns has his claim to seniority, Tester has a history of getting the job done.

Five years ago, an upstart Montana rancher nearly knocked Conrad Burns out of office.

Next year, an upstart Montana farmer will finish the job.

Tell your friends: Conrad is vulnerable. He knows it. Washington knows it. Most importantly, Montanans know it, because we need a change in direction in this country and an end to the culture of corruption in Washington.

Thanks for your support,

Bill Lombardi
Montanans for Tester

Posted by **Guest Writer** on Oct. 29, 2005 at 1:44 pm
Comments: 1 Comment | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

What We've Accomplished So Far

[Note: Jon sent the following email to supporters of the campaign today. To sign up to receive free email updates, click here.]

In the last three months, you raised more money for our campaign than any other Democrat in this race against Conrad Burns.

Thanks to your efforts and support, we're reporting $324,000 raised in the third quarter, with a total of $382,000 raised since I entered the race in late May.

But the most amazing thing is not the amount of money we've raised, but the number of people who have taken part in our effort to bring Montana values to Washington, D.C.

Nearly 3,000 individuals have contributed to this campaign, demonstrating that our support comes from the bottom up — from everyday working Montanans — and not from the top-down special interests who are financing Conrad Burns.

Montanans are making it loud and clear that they want real change in Washington, D.C.

As I've traveled across the state, I've heard Montanans tell me that they want access to affordable health care for their families, good paying jobs, and quality education for their kids.

I've heard their concerns about protecting Social Security and their retirement income. And I've heard from many people the complaint that politicians in Washington just don't seem concerned about regular working people.

But we're going to change that.

You've accomplished a tremendous amount in the last few months. But what we've accomplished together is just the beginning. Please take a moment to tell your friends about our campaign. Ask them to join us in the fight to bring real change to Washington. They can join for free by visiting this link:

http://www.testerforsenate.com/join/

And if you haven't yet done so, please consider volunteering for the campaign. Your time and commitment can make a huge difference in winning this race. You can sign up to lend a hand by visiting this link.

Thank you all for all that you do.

Jon Tester

Posted by **Guest Writer** on Oct. 17, 2005 at 12:22 pm
Comments: 1 Comment | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

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Welcome Aboard!

My friend Rob, known better to the Montana blogging world as Wulfgar!, endorsed Jon today

He had this to say:

> I am anti-DC establishment, and become more so by the day. This bunch of politicking losers are the same bunch who handed the Senate to the Republicans in the first place - specifically because they've lost touch with the people who vote. Jon rightly points out that the Pearl Jam concert wasn't a "stunt", it was friends being friends. If the Republicans want to match Jon's friends against Conrad's friends, then we got us a winner, here.
>
> [...]
>
> Jon Tester understands that Montanans actually value our state, our relationships, and our loyalties.
>
> [...]
>
> I don't care who thinks a candidate is just spiffy, half as much as I want insight into that candidates beliefs and loyalties. I want a candidate loyal to Montana, to Montanans, his friends and his neighbors. Do we elect Senators to represent establishment groups and interest parties, or to represent us? I think the latter. And that's why I can finally, strongly, endorse Jon Tester for the US Senate.

Thanks, Rob. I'm glad to have you on board.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Oct. 10, 2005 at 4:33 pm
Comments: 1 Comment | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Commenter Matching Fund

Bill Section 147, a commenter at Daily Kos, has offered to match up to 20 individual $10 contributions to this campaign. If you've thought about giving a little and want it to count double, that's too good of an offer to refuse.

See his comment for details.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Sep. 30, 2005 at 2:15 pm
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Ken Camp: "Jon Tester is down to earth and knows how to win in Republican territory."

Common Sense: Support Jon Tester for U.S. Senate

> Last Thursday night, I had the privilege of meeting Jon Tester, President of the Montana State Senate and a candidate for U.S. Senate. Jon and his wife Sharla are also organic family farmers.
>
> [...]
>
> While Jon will get elected to represent Montana in the United States Senate, Jon represents our values and will stand up for our interests. Conrad Burns only stands up for the special interests.
>
> [...]
>
> Jon is down-to-earth and knows how to win in Republican territory. He doesn't speak in long drawn-out sentences with words the average person would have to look up in a dictionary. Jon will seriously cut into Conrad Burns' base, but he needs our support.
>
> As someone who supports Jon Tester, I'm asking you to visit www.testerforsenate.com today and consider making a donation. As the father of 10-month-old Connor, I'm concerned about what the future will bring. Conrad Burns will mortgage my son's future, while Jon Tester will ensure that Connor has a future. The choice for me is simple. Jon Tester must be elected to the U.S. Senate.
>
> Please also consider forwarding this post to 5 friends who share our commitment to electing progressive Democrats.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Aug. 23, 2005 at 3:28 am
Comments: 2 Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

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COOL: Getting the Job Done

Senator Burns is wringing his hands in Washington, D C because his own party keeps shutting down efforts to get Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) implemented He even goes so far as to accuse his own party of selling out to special interests Who would have thought?

But here's the thing When it comes to COOL, Washington has a little bit to learn from Montana Frustrated with years of delay in D C , Jon Tester, Rep Bob Bergren, and Gov Brian Schweitzer passed their own COOL bill in Montana, earning a status as heroes among the Montana Cattlemen Association Republicans criticized the effort, saying it was grandstanding since the federal government would deliver

If only that were the case

But while Conrad Burns wrings his hands, Jon Tester rolls up his sleeves and gets the job done

That's the difference here in Montana

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Oct 28, 2005 at 10:52 am
Comments None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Homecoming on Saturday

Jon was in Missoula on Saturday for the Homecoming Parade Jess Grennan, our staffer who was there with him, has promised a report and pictures later today Look forward to it

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Oct 03, 2005 at 9:47 am
Comments None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Recount Afoot Serves as a Reminder

The recount beginning today in Missoula is a reminder of just how much of a difference voting can make The second and third place finishers are separated by a mere two votes In the campaign world, that's knocking an extra 50 doors, making an extra 100 phone calls, recruiting an extra three volunteers, raising an extra $50 That little of a commitment really can make all of the difference between defeat and victory in Montana

Just last year, Jeanne Windham squeaked to victory in Lake County after an apparent tie became a defeat for Constitutionalist Rick Jore In 2000, the margin in the Democratic primary for Superintedent of Public Instruction was less than 100 votes out of 91,819 cast Similar stories replay every year at every level of Montana politics — local, legislative, and statewide

The Missoulian has more on the race

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Sep 23, 2005 at 10:48 am
Comments None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Climbing Out of the Snow Lakes

This morning, Jon sent an email to people in the campaign explaining his commitment to public access to public lands

> That's a principle I'm committed to If we own it, we should be able to access it
> That applies to the rivers and streams of this state It also applies to our federal lands — to the national parks and wilderness areas that dot our state and the huge swaths of land held by the BLM, the Forest Service and other federal agencies
>
> For most of us, the waters and mountains and forests define what it is to be a Montanan We've all got our memories from public lands — catching that first trout, or waking up early in the mountains or on the plains Fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, floating, and backpacking with our families are part of our heritage
>
> And if you send me to the U S Senate, I pledge to protect that heritage

A few years ago, one of my best friends and I went hiking into the snow lakes, a difficult hike in the Beartooths out of East Rosebud If you know the trail, you might have seen the area I'm talking about Halfway to Elk Lake, the trail crosses a sizeable stream If you break left and follow the stream, ascend a boulder field, and hike a pass between two peaks, you come to two amazingly beautiful lakes We made it that night and hiked out early the next morning

As we entered the canyon to descend back to the main trail, the mountains were glowing in the warm golden glow also encountered occasionally on the rims in Billings Few colors in nature are more beautiful

That's my favorite memory of Montana's land

What's yours?

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Sep 15, 2005 at 11:32 am
Comments None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Voting and Bracing for Winter

Today is primary election day in cities across Montana. Make sure you vote.

New West reports on and opines about the sentencing of businessman Dick Dasen in the Flathead Dasen was convicted of sex related felonies He has been held to account in the court of public opinion for financially contributing in a major way to the Flathead's meth problem

Mike Dennison (writing for Lee, doesn't his name look out of place?) reports that the Governor is outlining an agenda to help cover home heating costs, since energy bills keep skyrocketing (sign the petition for a real federal energy policy)

And Missoula is poised to get a Krispy Kreme Missoula has a noticeable lack of donut shops (I think there's one on West Broadway that's pretty decent), but a number of outstanding bakeries Here in Billings, I typically head to the Donut Hole when I've got a craving for a maple bar, but I'm sure Krispy Kremes will be greeted with open mouths, as they tend to be

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Sep 13, 2005 at 10:48 am
Comments None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

City Elections Tomorrow

With a number of contested primaries across the state tomorrow, voter turnout should be up in these elections Both Billings and Missoula face crowded 6-way races for Mayor Numerous contested races for city council will also be narrowed tomorrow

If you want more information on the candidates, I'd recommend checking the online archives of your local daily newspaper A number of candidates have also gone online this year, so a google search might take do the trick

If you have questions about your polling location or if you can't find any decent information about any of the candidates and want to figure out how to get ahold of them, the next best step is probably to call your county election office A complete list of those offices is available from the Secretary of State's office

Feel free to discuss the upcoming municipal elections in comments

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Sep 12, 2005 at 10:26 am
Comments None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Montanans Show their Generosity

According to the *Billings Gazette*, the Montana Red Cross has raised over $200,000 since Hurricane Katrina Montanans earlier donated $500,000 during the Asian tsunami Since many of us are donating to other charities or directly to the American Red Cross, that number comes nowhere close to showing the real generosity in the state

Our Senior U S Senator has put together a relief package for the Gulf states that the *Tribune* reports on this morning The package includes relief for states hit hard by Medicaid costs, unemployment assistance, and other money to help the people of the Gulf states hit hard by the storm Senators are predicting the total federal tab for the storm may top $150 billion

According to the *Chronicle*, the Bozeman City Commission, at the urging of former Democratic Congressional candidate and current party Vice Chair Tracy Velazquez, is considering ways that their city can lend a hand in relief efforts

Finally, while Senator Baucus, Ms Velazquez, and Montanans across the state have been hard at work trying to lend a hand to the people of the Gulf Coast, former U S Representative Rick Hill, former Governor Judy Martz, and Secretary of State Brad Johnson are busy working on a Supreme Court appointment, the *Billings Gazette* reports

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Sep 07, 2005 at 10:29 am
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Yawn. Stretch.

Alright, we're back after Labor Day weekend There was a little bit of coverage of the Labor Day picnics this weekend, with Betsy Cohen of the *Missoulian* writing about Missoula's picnic and the issues weighing down on the workers present: "rising gas prices, low wages, [and] Gulf Coast devestation " Those sound a bit like the issues weighing down America right now Last week, Jon called for a reevaluation of our national energy policies Clearly, we also need to be doing more about how much people are getting paid

The other big news this weekend is the death of Chief Justice Rehnquist The White House has now nominated John Roberts, originally nominated for Associate Justice Sandra Day O'Connors' seat on the court, for the post of Chief Justice

What did you do this weekend?

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Sep 06, 2005 at 9:40 am
Comments 1 Comment | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Montana Morning Roundup

A survivor of Hurricane Katrina has made it to Billings to stay with family, the *Billings Gazette* is reporting this morning They've also got a story on Governor Schweitzer calling for refineries to avoid price gouging during this time

Rising gas prices are making headlines across the state with the *Great Falls Tribune* and the *Bozeman Chronicle* both reporting gas prices prominently MontanaGasPrices com is now reporting prices as high $3.19 in Eastern Montana

Posted by **Guest Writer** on Sep 02, 2005 at 11:25 am
Comments None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

SPR Tapped, but Fuel Prices Rising

The President authorized tapping the Strategic Petroleum Reserves, but gas prices are still soaring around the country with prices up $ 50 a gallon in Ohio This AP story has a photo of gasoline priced at $3 29 a gallon In Montana, Sidney is the only town facing gas prices above $3.00, according to MontanaGasPrices com, but the cheapest fuel in the state is still going for a premium — $2.47 a gallon down in Lockwood

Some experts are also warning that Hurricane Katrina may trigger further core inflation by impacting food prices

Meanwhile, today is Blog for Relief Day, with a number of Montana blogs participating Mike at the Last Best Place is raising money for Jewish Hurrican Relief and other liberal blogs across the country are raising money for the Red Cross

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Sep 01, 2005 at 10:37 am
Comments None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

tester time!

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Tester: Burns Should Vote to Extend Medicare Drug Benefit Sign Up

[Jon released the following Press Release earlier today.]

Tester: Burns Should Vote to Extend Medicare Drug Benefit Sign Up

Senate Candidate Would Offer Montana Reforms in U.S. Senate

February 3, 2006

"Unfortunately, last night, Conrad Burns pulled the rug out from under Montana seniors by voting against extending enrollment in the new federal drug benefit.

"Surveys show that a majority of seniors don't understand the new federal drug benefit. With less than 10 percent of Montana seniors signed on to the new plan, it's clear that people simply need more time to enroll in the new federal program.

"I urge Senator Burns to reconsider his actions and to support extending the enrollment period.

"Penalizing thoughtful seniors for carefully considering their health care options isn't fair and shows Conrad Burns is out of touch with Montana.

"Last year in the Montana Legislature, I sponsored and passed a bipartisan bill to provide real prescription drug relief, cover low-income seniors, and negotiate lower drug prices for Montana senior citizens. Here at home, we're working hard to promote that program so everyone can afford the drugs they need to stay healthy.

"Conrad Burns' vote against extending the federal enrollment deadline does a disservice to the work we're doing here in Montana, and forces seniors to make snap decisions about their health or face penalties and higher premium costs.

"I'm serious about making health care more affordable and cutting the federal deficit. In the U.S. Senate, I'll work to bring the benefit package we delivered to Montanans to the whole country. It's simple - negotiating for lower prescription drug prices saves tax dollars and helps seniors."

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Feb. 03, 2006 at 6:02 pm
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign - Forward This to a Friend

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Havre Daily News: Burns an Embarassment to Montana

The Havre Daily News follows Conrad Burns' tracks through the national media in an opinion piece and concludes our Junior Senator "has embarassed this state" due to his dealings with Jack Abramoff. The editors encourage Montanans to look into the facts surrounding the investigation before believing Burns' advertising hype.

The piece concludes by calling out Conrad's "aw shucks" strategy:

> Rather than respond to legitimate questions, Burns would rather have us all think that he's just a simple country boy and that we're just a bunch of simple country folk.
>
> He isn't, and we aren't.

Conrad Burns is implicated up in a complex web of Beltway deals that's far from country and even farther from simple. He has taken more money from Jack Abramoff, his clients, and his associates than anyone else in Congress.

Time for a change? Take a look at Jon Tester's ethics proposal - a simple plan to bring ethics back to the U.S. Senate.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jan. 31, 2006 at 3:34 pm
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign - Forward This to a Friend

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Web Ad Holds Burns' Feet to the Fire

Earlier this week Montana Newspapers reported on our Web Ad in response to Conrad Burns' media buy. Buzz about the ad is spreading truth about Conrad Burns' relationship to Jack Abramoff. Montanans are sick and tired of the culture of corruption in Washington D.C. And, with $200,000 in airtime, they're probably growing sick of Senator Burns' political spin during the nightly news.

The Billings Gazette piece covering our Web Ad includes a response from National Republican Senatorial Committee. Their spokesman, Brian Nick, dodges the content of the ad, chosing to attack Democrats instead.

Montanans have demanded Conrad Burns explain his dealings with Jack Abramoff. We've pushed our Junior Senator to explain his stance on Social Security privatization and his votes on Amtrak and pesticide testing.

And in return, we're served political spin.

If you haven't already, take a look at the ad on our website.

Like what you see? Help us spread the truth by signing up to volunteer, or making a contribution today.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jan. 31, 2006 at 11:59 am
Comments: 1 Comment | Grow the Campaign - Forward This to a Friend

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Tester Calls Both Parties Ethics Reforms "Not Enough"

[Jon released the following Press Release earlier today.]

Tester Calls Both Parties Ethics Reforms "Not Enough"

Tester Announces He'll Live by Stricter Rules

Ethics changes proposed by Democrats and Republicans in Washington this week "are just not enough to change the "pay to play" culture of Washington," says Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate Jon Tester, who Thursday announced his plans to fight for and abide by far stricter ethics standards.

"In the light of the Republican corruption scandals that Conrad Burns' relationship with Jack Abramoff have highlighted, Washington politicians of all stripes are scrambling to get behind anything they can call reform," Tester said. "But the proposals I have seen this week are just not enough to change the 'pay to play' culture of Washington.

"I'm all for strengthening rules, but it's even more important to change the culture of corruption. We need to let Washington know now that the 'For Sale' sign has to come down, and Conrad Burns' days of 'pay to play' are ending," Tester said. "But judging by how some of the so-called reforms being discussed this week are already meeting resistance from Washington insiders - senators and lobbyists - I'm not going to hold my breath. We simply can't trust the foxes to guard the henhouse and enact reforms."

"What Montanans expect and deserve is a senator who can be counted on to bring Montana's values to Washington rather than abandoning those values once he gets there," Tester said. "Today I'm announcing the rules I will live and work by, regardless of whether any of these other measures are passed. And I pledge this - I'll get tougher on ethics issues as time goes by, no matter who stands against me."

Tester released the following pledge:

> I won't just pass a law, I'll set an example. I will fight hard to put an end to the culture of corruption in Washington, and I'll live by a higher standard - a Montana standard of honesty, integrity and personal responsibility. And I'll ask a Montana judge to conduct an ethics audit of my office every year so Montanans know I'm living up to their expectations.
>
> I'll ban all lobbyist gifts, meals and travel paid by outside sources. All of it. That includes travel, lodging and meals in conjunction with fundraisers. I won't take personal favors from lobbyists, and neither will my staff.
>
> I'll shut my door to former members and staff who try to cash in on their connections. I will not allow my staff or myself to be lobbied by any former member of the Senate with whom I have served or by a former member of my staff who becomes a registered federal lobbyist. And I'll work to expand the current ban on lobbying by former members and staff to three years to shut the revolving door for those who want to profit from the connections they made in public service.
>
> I'll end secret meetings with lobbyists. At the end of every business day I will post a list of every in-office meeting that I or my staff has had with a lobbyist. And I will work to require all lobbyists to declare on a publicly available website, on a weekly basis, every meeting they have with a member's office.
>
> I'll work to end the anonymous 'earmarks' that allow a member of the Senate or the House to slip in a lobbyist's favorite pork barrel spending item without any accountability. I'll fight my hardest for Montana and I'll do it openly. And I'll use the bully pulpit of the Senate floor to call attention to every anonymous earmark.
>
> - I'll close loopholes, not loosen them. Those seeking special access to senators are like water - they'll always seek out the cracks in the wall. Lobbyists will always try to find a loophole, even on the strictest rules. So I'll keep looking for ways to stop them, and the corrupt legislators they hope to influence.

###

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jan. 19, 2006 at 3:20 pm
Comments: 8 Comments | Grow the Campaign - Forward This to a Friend

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Building Bridges

We found some compelling analysis on the changing political picture in Montana by Rick Bass in Grist Magazine yesterday. Writing about a new wilderness bill for Northwest Montana, Bass outlines the 2006 U.S. Senate contest in Montana:

> Burns' support and cosponsorship of the bill might be well advised - speaking of the circularity of things - in light of the fact that his likely Democratic challenger in 2006 might well embrace it first. That challenger is a crew-cut eastern Montanan, and sudden golden child of many progressives, named Jon Tester.
>
> Tester, who has served as president of the state Senate, would have to defeat fellow Democrat John Morrison - who, like Burns, boasts superior financing - in the primary this June to face Burns. Despite those odds, hopes are riding on him. Interestingly, despite the green credibility garnered by the conversion of his family's farm to an organic operation, the energy surrounding his campaign is not environmentally driven. Instead, **it seems fueled by general idealism, the desire for a certain cleanness and integrity.**
>
> The high-dollar organic grains are about as wild and crazy, as progressive, as Tester gets, which seems to be just about the amount Montanans are pining for these days - not the regressive howlings of Newt Gingrich's "Contract with America" politics, and not the old-school progressivism of politicians like Williams, yet. **Like Schweitzer, Tester is homegrown;** he knows that guns in Montana are not the same as guns in the inner city. Maybe a word for these new Montana Democrats might be transgressive - easing, edging, into the future, and moving, finally, out of the past, even as they carry certain useful and beloved elements of it with them.
>
> Whoever emerges from the spring primary should have an interesting shot, given the Montana tilt toward the Democratic Party, and the negative ratings of Burns, who, this year more than ever, has a reputation as a bridge burner. The latter tack will always be able to rally a certain core constituency, but what if - after 20 years - he is behind the times, and Montanans decide they would rather build bridges than burn them?

Sick of burning bridges and ethically challenged politics? So are we! Show your support for Jon Tester today, and help us bring honesty and personal responsibility to the U.S. Senate.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jan. 19, 2006 at 3:15 pm
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign - Forward This to a Friend

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Tribes Reject Tainted Burns Abramoff Money

USA Today has the latest on Conrad Burns' attempts to run from Jack Abramoff and his associates' campaign contributions. The Montana-Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council has refused the cash, and the Great Falls Tribune reports that the Blackfeet Community College has refused the money as well.

From the USA Today piece:

> WASHINGTON (AP) - The Montana-Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council has rejected a $111,000 donation from the campaign of Montana Sen. Conrad Burns, with some saying the money is tainted because it originally came from lobbyist Jack Abramoff and his clients.
>
> James Steele Jr., also chairman of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, said yesterday that the council voted not to accept the donation, which was made up of contributions from Abramoff, his associates and his tribal clients.
>
> In a statement Wednesday, Burns campaign chairman Mark Baker called the decision "disappointing" and said Burns would redirect most of the funds to the tribes that originally donated the money. Burns, a Republican, said in December that he would give away and return $146,700 in donations in order to avoid the appearance of improper connections to Abramoff, who pleaded guilty two weeks ago to federal corruption charges.
>
> Abramoff admitted to conspiring to defraud Indian tribes, which he sometimes directed to make contributions to lawmakers. Since his plea agreement, many lawmakers have rushed to donate money connected to him and his clients or return it.
>
> "To us it's tainted money," Doney said Wednesday. "If he wanted us to have extra money, he would have given it to us in other ways."

So, Senator Burns cannot return the tainted money to the tribes who donated to his campaign and Montana tribes are refusing the funds. Check back to see where the money ends up.

Here's an idea - maybe we can use Senator Burns' backpedaling on Abramoff donations to power our state in the face of global warming. Conrad's backpedaling is certainly a renewable resource - but probably not the cleanest power we might find.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jan. 19, 2006 at 3:10 pm
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign - Forward This to a Friend

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Tester Beats Morrison, Ties Against Burns

[Bill Lombardi sent the following email to campaign members today. To sign up to receive emails, click here.]

Your hard work is paying off.

The latest Rasmussen Reports poll of Montana voters - out today - shows Jon Tester tied with Conrad Burns, 45 percent to 45 percent.

The same poll shows that Conrad Burn would beat State Auditor John Morrison, 46 percent to 43 percent.

That's a double digit gain for our campaign in less than four months. As the Rasmussen Report says:

> [Burns'] re-election effort is apparently suffering from lobbyist Jack Abramoff's guilty plea and widely publicized agreement - to cooperate in the investigation of congressmen who may also have broken the law. [Conrad Burns] recently returned $150,000 in contributions from Abramoff.

But while Conrad Burns' entanglement with Jack Abramoff and special interest lobbyist money may be turning off voters, it's your grassroots effort and support that are truly propelling Jon Tester's campaign.

Every email you've forwarded, every friend you've asked to join our email list, every dollar you've contributed has gotten us to where we are today.

But we can't let up. The Burns campaign hopes to throw $10 million of their special interest lobbyist money into this race, and they'll do anything to hang on to their seat.

So please, take a moment to redouble your efforts. Forward this email on to your friends and family, and ask them to join you in supporting Jon Tester for U.S. Senate. And if you are able, consider making a contribution to the campaign today.

http://www.testerforsenate.com/contribute/

We've gained incredible momentum. Keep up the hard work - and together we'll send Montana values to Washington, D.C., in November.

Bill Lombardi
Montanans for Tester

(Also posted at Daily Kos.)

Posted by **Guest Writer** on Jan. 11, 2006 at 11:12 am
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign - Forward This to a Friend

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Tester Stands Up for Fair Wages

[Jon released the following statement earlier today.]

> Tester: "Minimum Wage Initiative is 'Moral Necessity'"
>
> *"If you work full time, you should make fair wage. That's common sense."*
>
> January 10, 2006 (BIG SANDY, MT) - U.S. Senate candidate Jon Tester today endorsed the citizens' initiative to raise Montana's minimum wage by a dollar an hour, from $5.15 to $6.15 an hour.
>
> "The minimum wage initiative speaks to whether we value work," Tester said. "Raising Montana's minimum wage to $6.15 an hour will allow more workers to support their families, more families to make ends meet, and more Montanans to go to work instead of going on welfare. That saves taxpayers' money."
>
> The initiative could be placed on the November 2006 ballot.
>
> "Polls show that Montanans want this," Tester said. "But I don't need a poll to tell me it's the right thing to do. The last time Montanans tried to raise the minimum wage, special interests helped defeat it. I'll do everything I can to make sure that doesn't happen this year. Montana's working families deserve a raise."
>
> Montana, Tester noted, ranked dead last - 50th - in the nation in annual average wages for its workers from 1999 through 2004. And Montana ranked third nationally in 2004 for multiple job holders (holding two or more jobs) as a percentage of total employment in the state, Tester added.
>
> Tester has fought for a boost in the minimum wage.
>
> In the 2005 Legislature, under Senate President Tester's leadership, the Montana Senate passed Senate Bill 78, which would have increased Montana's minimum wage to $6.00 an hour. Tester voted for the bill. But the measure was defeated in the evenly divided Montana House of Representatives on a party-line vote.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jan. 10, 2006 at 2:36 pm
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign - Forward This to a Friend

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News Roundup - Cleaning Up the Culture of Corruption

Montanans for Tester hit the ground running and earned national media attention in the first week of 2006—Jon's call for an end to the culture of corruption in Washington D.C. was featured in recent news articles.

In The Guardian yesterday, commentator Gary Younge discusses the Abramoff plea agreement and highlights Jon Tester's efforts to bring integrity to the U.S. Senate.

From the story:

> "'This kind of politics,' said Democrat Jon Tester, 'doesn't really represent the rank and file folks that are out there every day trying to make ends meet.' Tester is challenging Montana's Republican senator, Conrad Burns, who had close ties to Abramoff."

The author doesn't pull any punches and criticizes many members of congress from both sides of the aisle for their deep ties to the pocketbooks of corporate lobbyists. As President of the Montana Senate, Jon Tester worked to help main street businesses, develop renewable energy, and bring meaningful prescription drug coverage to Montanans. Tester has always demonstrated his commitment to the needs of everyday Montanans and shown he can counteract the pay to play political game in government.

Last week, the Los Angeles Times also commented on the "culture of corruption" in the Republican Congress. Ronald Brownstein's piece cites Tester's efforts to bring accountability and honest leadership to Washington D.C.

The Great Falls Tribune also featured words from Tester on cleaning up government.

> "Senate President Jon Tester, D-Big Sandy, one of the four, called the Abramoff plea 'sad.'
>
> 'What this indicates is that the culture of corruption in Washington, D.C., is real and it needs to be cleaned up,' Tester said. 'Those congressmen who are affiliated with this pay-to-play situation need to be replaced with people who have integrity and honesty and want to represent the people of Montana.'"

It's time for honest leadership for Montana in the U.S. Senate. Join the campaign by signing up for our email list, volunteering, or making a contribution today.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jan. 10, 2006 at 2:32 pm
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign - Forward This to a Friend

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Introducing...

January brings a new year and new energy to TesterTime and Montanans for Tester. Matt Singer has moved on to new employment and I will be part of the group contributing regularly over the coming months with commentary, political news, and updates from inside the campaign.

I first met Jon Tester in 2004 on the campaign trail while supporting legislative races in Rural Montana and was proud to work with him at the Montana Senate in 2005. After seeing Jon lead the State Senate in a new direction after a decade of Republican control, I know he will serve Montanans well in Washington D.C. as our next U.S. Senator.

I have to say, it is an honor to step into Matt Singer's shoes here at TesterTime - we wish him well in his new position with PLAN, the Progressive Legislative Action Network. Thanks for all your help, Matt.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jan. 10, 2006 at 2:23 pm
Comments: 3 Comments | Grow the Campaign - Forward This to a Friend

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A New Day in Montana

by Bob Ream

[Editor's Note: Former Montana Democratic Party Chair Bob Ream sent the following message to members of the campaign today. We're proud to have the support of Bob, who is a great Democrat and a great Montanan.]

Since my retirement after eight years as Chair of the Montana Democratic Party, I've managed to stay quite busy doing "deferred maintenance" at home and taking a much needed vacation with my family

Now it's time for me to get back into politics and participate in a way that I haven't been able to in years by getting involved in a primary

I spent 16 years in the Montana House and **I am dedicated to helping Jon Tester win both the primary and the general election.**

Jon Tester is my good friend and **he is the only Democrat who can beat Conrad Burns.** Tester is a farmer from north central Montana who appeals to rural and urban Montana voters Tester knows what it's like to wake up at 4:30 a m and work out in the fields The dirt on his cowboy boots is real He's a third generation Montana farmer who will take Montanan's needs and issues to Washington without the help of Jack Abramoff or other lobbyists

But it will take all of us participating in some way to beat Conrad Burns and his special interest money If you can afford to do so, **please join me in making a financial contribution to the Tester campaign today.** Tomorrow is the final day of the fundraising quarter Even a small amount can go a long way

http://www.testerforsenate.com/contribute/

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His hard work paid off: we picked up 6 Senate seats and 3 House seats. Because of his hard work and the respect of the other 26 Senate Democrats, Jon was elected President of the Senate In that capacity he was highly successful at working across the aisle and working with the Governor's office to get solid legislation passed

Democrats like you and I and Jon Tester went through a lot together in this last decade Together, we witnessed some of our party's worst defeats And, together, we rebuilt one of the strongest Democratic parties in the nation making it truly a **New Day in Montana**

Please join me in **sending Jon Tester a contribution**, so we can return Burns' seat to the party of Mike Mansfield

http://www.testerforsenate.com/contribute/

Thank you for working with me to elect Jon Tester to the U S Senate in 2006

Bob Ream

Posted by **Guest Writer** on Sep 29, 2005 at 10:44 pm
Comments None | Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

Paid for and authorized by Montanans for Tester, P O Box 1248, Big Sandy, MT 59520

Montana Morning Roundup

As water continues to rise in New Orleans (and the Red Cross continues to need your help), life in Montana seems a bit mundane by comparison. The *Billings Gazette* is reporting this morning that the Public Service Commission has approved a rate hike on natural gas rates so students are facing tuition surcharges to cover the cost according to the *Montana Kaimin*.

Voters in Gallatin County rejected a a new county jail, the *Bozeman Daily Chronicle* is reporting. The *Great Falls Tribune* tells us that Tom Siebel, a philanthropist, is funding a $5.6 million campaign to fight meth use. His action comes after the passage of a comprehensive anti-meth legislative package at the legislature this year.

Finally, Swing State Project is reporting that campaigns across the country are following Jon's lead and calling for support of the Red Cross. Both the Democratic and Republican parties nationally have now put out the call to their supporters to help our neighbors in Louisiana and Mississippi.

What else is happening in your Montana morning?

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Aug. 31, 2005 at 10:33 am
Comments: 2 Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Help Our Neighbors

About an hour ago, Jon sent out the following message to our email list:

> I want to thank all of you who helped make Monday night's Pearl Jam show in Missoula such a tremendous success. Whether you attended the show in person, showed your support by contributing online, or just read about the night's events on our blog, your participation means a great deal to me.
>
> Now I want to ask you to participate in another way -- by making a contribution to the American Red Cross to support the residents of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama who have been devastated by Hurricane Katrina.
>
> As I write this, waters continue to rise in New Orleans, where entire neighborhoods have been flooded. Biloxi, Mississippi has been hit hard. More than 37,000 Americans are already seeking shelter in American Red Cross centers all along the Gulf Coast. And the director of FEMA says tens of thousands more will likely require shelter for weeks, if not months.
>
> So why is a U.S. Senate candidate from Montana asking you to help out?
> Because it's the right thing to do. Because this campaign isn't just about politics -- it's about all of us pulling together to bring Montana values to Washington, D.C. and to the rest of the nation.
>
> And in Montana, we help a neighbor in need. And sometimes that neighbor is very far away.
>
> So please do what you can by supporting the efforts of the American Red Cross to help those affected by this disaster.
>
> Thank you for helping out.
>
> Jon Tester
> Montanans for Tester

Honestly, please help the Red Cross. And if you want to get campaign updates in the future, join the email list over on the right.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Aug. 30, 2005 at 5:53 pm
Comments: 1 Comment | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Montana Afternoon Roundup

New West's Jonathan Weber came to the show last night and was impressed by Pearl Jam's show. As noted in the story and in comments over there, Pearl Jam doesn't back just anybody. Of course, Jon Tester isn't just anybody.

Joe Nickell of the *Missoulian* also came down to our little concert and noticed how Pearl Jam was trying to play off of Jon Tester's "cool" vibe. I may have gotten that backwards, but the story does a great job of highlighting how the concert has sparked interest among a lot of UM students, not to mention the 50-70 volunteers we had running around in Blue "Jon Tester" T-shirts last night.

Of course, there were several thousand other people there who can shed a little light on how the concert went. What did you think of the show?

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Aug. 30, 2005 at 1:10 pm
Comments: 1 Comment | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

He's everywhere

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Aug. 29, 2005 at 1:33 pm
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

The Road from Big Sandy to Washington, D.C.

From here, it looks like a long, winding road from Big Sandy to Washington, D.C. We've got quite a ways to go, but there are many unique places and remarkable people to see along the way. I've already started traveling across Montana, from the mountains to the plains, to talk with everyday folks from all walks of life about our shared values and vision for Montana and America.

You probably won't be too surprised about something I've been hearing:

It turns out that I'm not the only person in this state who thinks things could be going better for us in our nation's capital.

The fact of the matter is that politicians in Washington, D.C., aren't focusing on the right issues. Some of them want to privatize Social Security while most Americans face skyrocketing health insurance premiums. But when they finally do try to tackle an important issue, like rising gas prices, they do it by giving a break to some of America's wealthiest corporations at taxpayer expense. Our representatives should focus on issues that matter -- like affordable health care for families, jobs, education and our economic and retirement security.

I'm running for U.S. Senate because I think before our government signs off on a bankruptcy bill that gives creditors the green light to go after working families, the government should fix its own financial house of cards. I think its about time to remind people in Washington, D.C., about what people out here in the rest of the country are worried about. These kitchen-table issues matter. And Conrad Burns and the current administration aren't getting the job done for Montana families.

For the past seven years, I've served in the Montana Legislature in both the minority and as the President of the Senate. We've accomplished a lot since winning back the Senate in 2004, from strengthening Montana's privacy laws to increasing funding for education, making health care more affordable and accessible and producing some serious plans for rural economic development.

I'll bring my experience as a citizen legislator and the beliefs we share as Montanans to the U.S. Senate. My first duty will be to represent the people I meet each and every day on the road to Washington.

It's going to be a long -- and fun -- trip. Thanks for joining me along the way.

Posted by **Jon Tester** on Aug. 28, 2005 at 2:50 pm
Comments: 5 Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Montana Morning Roundup

The *Great Falls Tribune* reports this morning that BRAC is taking up the Air Force list, with deliberation this morning on the issue of removing fighters from the Montana Air National Guard.

Staff at Missoula county schools are threatening a strike. The union has come back with a plan for a two year eleven percent raise. Their threats gained backing from the MEA-MFT, with Eric Feaver coming to Missoula to support the school staff.

Meanwhile, the early chilly weather is helping firefighters. The *Bozeman Chronicle* profiles Roger "Liberty Tree" Koopman.

Finally, two Health and Human Services employees saved Pica, the Governor's more elderly dog, while taking an afternoon walk.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Aug. 26, 2005 at 9:28 am
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Montana Morning Roundup

Tom Schneider is not running for re-election to the Public Service Commission, leaving an open seat. So far the only candidate showing interest is Senator Ken Toole, who is the chair of the Senate Energy and Telecommunications Committee.

David Lipson's Paws Up Resort has now paid $90,000 in fines to the State of Montana and owes an additional $120,000 following a deal with the State to avoid being shut down. Missoula County is still decidedly unimpressed with the operation.

Finally, a hat's off to Tech and UM for making Priceton Review's Best 361 Colleges this year. Maybe UM President George Dennison will be more pleased this year than he was the last time Princeton Review "honored" the school. In '99 UM received honors as a party school. There's no word on the recognition's details this year.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Aug. 24, 2005 at 10:14 am
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

On the Radio

Jon's in the next room doing a radio interview right now. He just finished on two points:

- He said that Democrats need to be more aggressive in standing up for what we believe. When we do that, people will listen and respect us.
- Democracy only works when people participate.

Doesn't get much truer than that.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Aug. 24, 2005 at 9:32 am
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Montana Morning Roundup

As you may already know, we've still got a few seats left for the Pearl Jam show next week. Last month I ran into some friends who were convinced it was sold out. Maybe now they'll believe me. Honestly, get your tickets. It should be a great show.

Meanwhile, forget how wet June was, the downpours didn't come early enough for Big Mountain in Whitefish, where low snowfalls hurt profits a bit. And the rain didn't stick around long enough in Western Montana, where fire danger is high ("extreme" is the term used by the *Missoulian*). Forget Lipson, maybe we can change our name to Big Fire Country or the Last Burned Place.

Finally, in a sign of good things to come for Montana, Jared Miller of the *Great Falls Tribune* looks at the wind farm springing up in Wheatland County. The figures estimate an average of $750,000 in property tax revenue to the county each year for the next 40 years from the project. Miller also notes the benefits from the construction boom to the local economy. During the session, Jon sponsored the renewable energy standard that will lead to more projects like this one, offering us good jobs and tax revenues in rural areas, and cleaner energy for the rest of us.

What else is happening in your Montana morning?

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Aug. 23, 2005 at 10:33 pm
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Ken Camp: "Jon Tester is down-to-earth and knows how to win in Republican territory."

Common Sense: Support Jon Tester for U.S. Senate

> Last Thursday night, I had the privilege of meeting Jon Tester, President of the Montana State Senate and a candidate for U.S. Senate. Jon and his wife Sharla are also organic family farmers.
>
> [...]
>
> While Jon will get elected to represent Montana in the United States Senate, Jon represents our values and will stand up for our interests. Conrad Burns only stands up for the special interests.
>
> [...]
>
> Jon is down-to-earth and knows how to win in Republican territory. He doesn't speak in long drawn-out sentences with words the average person would have to look up in a dictionary. Jon will seriously cut into Conrad Burns' base, but he needs our support.
>
> As someone who supports Jon Tester, I'm asking you to visit www.testerforsenate.com today and consider making a donation. As the father of 10 month old Connor, I'm concerned about what the future will bring. Conrad Burns will mortgage my son's future, while Jon Tester will ensure that Connor has a future. The choice for me is simple. Jon Tester must be elected to the U.S. Senate.
>
> Please also consider forwarding this post to 5 friends who share our commitment to electing progressive Democrats.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Aug. 23, 2005 at 3:28 am
Comments: 2 Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

tester time!

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Commenter Matching Fund

Bill Section 147, a commenter at Daily Kos, has offered to match up to 20 individual $10 contributions to this campaign. If you've thought about giving a little and want it to count double, that's too good of an offer to refuse.

See his comment for details.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Sep. 30, 2005 at 2:15 pm
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Winning Montana

Jon has a recap of what we've done this quarter and how we're going to win this race. It's up at New West Network, Daily Kos and MyDD. It's a great piece worth checking out.

> We highlighted real differences between Conrad Burns and the values of Montana voters.
>
> 1. We stood up and demanded a real energy policy that addresses America's energy needs while recognizing the need for conservation, renewable energy development, and the strengthening of our rural economies. (If you haven't yet signed the petition demanding that George Bush and Congress get serious about energy, please do so here.)
>
> 2. We stood up and said that it's time for this foolish talk about privatizing Social Security to come to an end so we can deal with real issues facing America.
>
> 3. We declared, "You can't rebuild America by tearing American workers down" and called on the White House to reverse their decision on Davis-Bacon.
>
> 4. We said that we've had enough of Washington's pay to play, win at all costs attitude.
>
> 5. And we stood up and said that Washington, D.C. needs real leadership to deal with the deficit today - so that our children aren't left paying our debts.
>
> And in the process of standing up for what's right, more than 2,000 people like you have made financial contributions to our campaign.

Go read the whole thing. What should we do next quarter?

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Sep. 30, 2005 at 8:08 am
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

A New Day in Montana

by Bob Ream

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Thank you for working with me to elect Jon Tester to the U.S. Senate in 2006.

Bob Ream

Posted by **Guest Writer** on Sep. 29, 2005 at 10:44 pm
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Asking for Answers is Fair

Two days ago, in the same email I highlighted below, Jon brought a little attention to a new report titled "Beyond Delay: The 13 Most Corrupt Members of Congress." The reason he raised this report is that Montana's junior Senator - Conrad Burns - is featured along with 10 other Republicans and 2 Democrats as one of the 13.

That's quite the prize.

The report focuses on still unanswered questions about the relationship between Conrad Burns' office and notorious Washington lobbyist Jack Abramoff.

Yesterday, two men in Florida who have connections to Jack Abramoff were arrested on murder charges - charges brought in the death of the former owner of SunCruz casinos. The man was killed while trying to get his company back from Jack Abramoff.

SunCruz may sound familiar because two of Conrad Burns' staffers - his Chief of Staff and his Appropriations staffer - took a vacation on SunCruz casinos before going to the Super Bowl on a trip paid for with Abramoff's money.

All of this sounds like something we're still not too proud to be part of.

Which is why Jon is speaking out again today to our email list (and in a diary posted at both MyDD and at the Daily Kos).

(Now former) House Majority Leader Tom DeLay was indicted today. There's a stench running through most of Washington, but as Jon notes, it's our responsibility to clean it up.

> But let me tell you something. I've been a farmer my entire life, and I can tell you from experience that no matter how hard you try, you can't convince a hog to shovel its own bull.
>
> By the same token, we can't expect those in Washington to clean up to corruption in Washington.
>
> It's going to take all of us standing up and saying, enough is enough. We deserve a government better than this.

He's right. We get the government we work for. Right now, you might say that we've got the government we deserve. Let's work harder and get the government we want.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Sep. 28, 2005 at 2:53 pm
Comments: 2 Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Reconstructing American Wages

Jon sent an email to members of the campaign yesterday highlighting a few problems with Senator Conrad Burns' stance on what workers rebuilding the Gulf Coast should be paid.

The thing is, the Senator and the White House think it's OK to hand out no bid contracts without competition but tell those companies sure to profit from the reconstruction that they can pay their workers minimum wage.

Jon Tester is sending a different message though.

> I support the prevailing wage standard - because I believe in a fair day's pay for a fair day's work. I don't think you can rebuild America by tearing American workers down.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Sep. 27, 2005 at 11:13 am
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Recount Afoot Serves as a Reminder

The recount beginning today in Missoula is a reminder of just how much of a difference voting can make. The second and third place finishers are separated by a mere two votes. In the campaign world, that's knocking an extra 50 doors, making an extra 100 phone calls, recruiting an extra three volunteers, raising an extra $50. That little bit of a commitment really can make all of the difference between defeat and victory in Montana.

Just last year, Jeanne Windham squeaked to victory in Lake County after an apparent tie became a defeat for Constitutionalist Rick Jore. In 2000, the margin in the Democratic primary for Superintendent of Public Instruction was less than 100 votes out of 91,819 cast. Similar stories replay every year at every level of Montana politics - local, legislative, and statewide.

The Missoulian has more on the race.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Sep. 23, 2005 at 10:48 am
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

The Leadership Deficit in Washington

You can tell its getting toward the end of the quarter with as busy as everyone in the campaign is.

This afternoon, Jon sent a message to people on our campaign email list. He wrote about how Washington is facing two serious deficits right now, the money deficit and the leadership deficit.

Here are some of my favorite passages:

> What are they thinking in Washington?
>
> As America begins to deal with the economic effects of Hurricane Katrina and prepares to deal with oncoming Hurricane Rita, we're hobbled by the impact of four years of binge spending and tax cuts in Washington, D.C.
>
> And here comes the hangover.
>
> [...]
>
> Too few people in Washington - of either party - are willing to state the obvious: that in order to pay for this natural disaster, we just might have to get our fiscal house in order, live within our means, invest in our kids and our future, and stop giving away the treasury.
>
> It's this sort of behavior that makes all of us occasionally wish Washington would just use a little bit of good old fashioned Montana common sense. But if wishes were horses, beggars would ride.
>
> The government in Washington may not get it at times, but it's our government. It's our responsibility to fix it. And it's our responsibility to do what they won't - to roll up our sleeves, work together and get the job done. Like we did in the 2005 Legislature - we balanced the budget, lived within our means, improved health care, boosted funding for education, and eliminated property taxes for 13,000 small and Main Street businesses.
>
> That's getting the job done.

Help us get the job done. Don't forget, you still have the opportunity to donate and receive one of the limited Pearl Jam/Jon Tester posters.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Sep. 22, 2005 at 5:32 pm
Comments: 2 Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

End of Quarter Coming: 3 Ways to Help

The end of the third quarter is quickly approaching. There's three easy things you can do at this point to help this campaign.

1. Join our email list. Hear directly from Jon about his opinion on the issues and find out the latest news about the campaign.
2. Sign the Energy Petition. Join Jon's call for America to embrace a real energy policy, one that diversifies our energy base, strengthens rural economies, and provides cleaner alternatives.
3. Donate. Running for office is expensive these days. Lend a hand and help us get Jon elected.

That new poll out last week shows we've made some great gains over the summer. Help us keep that momentum going this fall.

Jon sent an email today to a number of people who came to the Pearl Jam concert last month. Check it out after the jump.

(more...)

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Sep. 22, 2005 at 1:36 pm
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

The Countdown Starts Today

Bill Lombardi sent out an email to the campaign list today:

> We've come a long way in the last four months.
>
> When Jon Tester announced his campaign in late May, our main primary opponent was well on his way to raising $400,000 at a time when we didn't even have a bank account. Polls showed us with little name recognition, pulling just 26 percent of the vote in a hypothetical election. And we didn't even have an email list - just a list of people that Jon had promised to call when he made the decision to run.
>
> But thanks to you, we've come a long way - and the momentum is building. A new poll shows Jon has gone from 26 percent in May to 38 percent support today in a hypothetical match up. In the last two months, your efforts to recruit friends and family have doubled the size of our campaign. And just three weeks ago, we pulled off one of the biggest political rallies in Montana's history at the Pearl Jam show in Missoula.
>
> But the next two weeks are the most important weeks we've faced so far, and we need to demonstrate to the press, pundits and D.C. insiders that the grassroots momentum building behind our campaign can speak to them in the only language they understand - the language of money.
>
> Next Friday, September 30th, is the third quarter deadline for FEC fundraising purposes. How well we do will send a loud message about the strength of our campaign, and about your commitment to sending a working Montanan to represent you in Washington. Please contribute what you can today.
>
> I know money is tight for many Montanans. Conrad Burns' high roller big donors don't feel the pinch of gasoline near $3 a gallon and skyrocketing natural gas prices as winter approaches. Conrad Burns has consistently voted against the interests of working Montanans - voting to give tax breaks to oil companies at a time when many Montanans are struggling to fill up the gas tank.
>
> The truth is, we can't afford to keep Conrad Burns in Washington any longer. Please contribute what you can and help us throw Burns out.
>
> (more...)

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Sep. 19, 2005 at 11:24 am
Comments: 1 Comment | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Jamming for New Orleans

Our friends in Pearl Jam are putting their talents to work for Hurricane Katrina relief, namely for the American Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity, and the Jazz Foundation for America.

The show will be at the Chicago House of Blues and tickets run $1000.

If you can't make the show, but want to donate to the Red Cross, we've got the link on the right.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Sep. 15, 2005 at 7:38 pm
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

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Burns Knows He Has a Real Race on His Hands

from Bill Lombardi

"In the staid halls of the U S Senate, Montana Republican Conrad Burns is known for his booming voice and his cheery, back slapping confidence But when it comes to talking about his upcoming bid for re-election, his demeanor turns more serious "

Associated Press, 10/29/05

Just in case you didn't see it, there's an article in this morning's *Great Falls Tribune* you need to check out.

When you read the article, you see that Senator Burns is acknowledging what Jon Tester has been talking about since day one in this campaign
Health care is too expensive, energy prices are too high, and we need a change in direction in this country.

But after seventeen years in Washington, it doesn't look like Senator Burns has a solution on any of these fronts

The fact is that while Senator Burns at the end points out that he's in Washington, that he's got seniority, and that he's in the majority, he still has trouble pointing to anything he's done about these two most pressing problems facing Montana health care costs and energy prices

The fact is that back here in Montana, Jon Tester has been a leader on both of these issues, passing new health insurance and prescription drug plans and taking the lead in diversifying our energy portfolio and decreasing our dependence on foreign oil

The fact of the matter is that Conrad Burns is worried about Jon Tester Where Burns has his claim to seniority, Tester has a history of getting the job done

Five years ago, an upstart Montana rancher nearly knocked Conrad Burns out of office

Next year, an upstart Montana farmer will finish the job

Tell your friends Conrad is vulnerable He knows it. Washington knows it. Most importantly, Montanans know it, because we need a change in direction in this country and an end to the culture of corruption in Washington

Thanks for your support,

Bill Lombardi
Montanans for Tester

Posted by **Guest Writer** on Oct. 29, 2005 at 1 44 pm
Comments 1 Comment Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

COOL. Getting the Job Done

Senator Burns is wringing his hands in Washington, D C because his own party keeps shutting down efforts to get Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) implemented He even goes so far as to accuse his own party of selling out to special interests Who would have thought?

But here's the thing. When it comes to COOL, Washington has a little bit to learn from Montana Frustrated with years of delay in D C , Jon Tester, Rep Bob Bergren, and Gov Brian Schweitzer passed their own COOL bill in Montana, earning a status as heroes among the Montana Cattlemen Association Republicans criticized the effort, saying it was grandstanding since the federal government would deliver

If only that were the case

But while Conrad Burns wrings his hands, Jon Tester rolls up his sleeves and gets the job done

That's the difference here in Montana

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Oct. 28, 2005 at 10:52 am
Comments None | Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

What We've Accomplished So Far

[Note. Jon sent the following email to supporters of the campaign today. To sign up to receive free email updates, click here.]

In the last three months, you raised more money for our campaign than any other Democrat in this race against Conrad Burns

Thanks to your efforts and support, we're reporting $324,000 raised in the third quarter, with a total of $382,000 raised since I entered the race in late May

But the most amazing thing is not the amount of money we've raised, but the number of people who have taken part in our effort to bring Montana values to Washington, D C

Nearly 3,000 individuals have contributed to this campaign, demonstrating that our support comes from the bottom up — from everyday working Montanans — and not from the top down special interests who are financing Conrad Burns

Montanans are making it loud and clear that they want real change in Washington, D C

As I've traveled across the state, I've heard Montanans tell me that they want access to affordable health care for their families, good paying jobs, and quality education for their kids

I've heard their concerns about protecting Social Security and their retirement income And I've heard from many people the complaint that politicians in Washington just don't seem concerned about regular working people

But we're going to change that.

You've accomplished a tremendous amount in the last few months But what we've accomplished together is just the beginning Please take a moment to tell your friends about our campaign Ask them to join us in the fight to bring real change to Washington They can join for free by visiting this link:

http://www.testerforsenate.com/join/

And if you haven't yet done so, please consider volunteering for the campaign Your time and commitment can make a huge difference in winning this race You can sign up to lend a hand by visiting this link.

Thank you all for all that you do,

Jon Tester

Posted by **Guest Writer** on Oct. 17, 2005 at 12:22 pm
Comments 1 Comment Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

Welcome Aboard!

My friend Rob, known better to the Montana blogging world as Wulfgar!, endorsed Jon today

He had this to say:

> I am anti DC establishment, and become more so by the day This bunch of politicking losers are the same bunch who handed the Senate to the Republicans in the first place . specifically because they've lost touch with the people who vote Jon rightly points out that the Pearl Jam concert wasn't a "stunt", it was friends being friends If the Republicans want to match Jon's friends against Conrad's friends, then we got us a winner, here
>
> [.]
>
> Jon Tester understands that Montanans actually value our state, our relationships, and our loyalties
>
> [.]
>
> I don't care who thinks a candidate is just spiffy, half as much as I want insight into that candidates beliefs and loyalties I want a candidate loyal to Montana, to Montanans, his friends and his neighbors Do we elect Senators to represent establishment groups and interest parties, or to represent us? I think the latter And that's why I can finally, strongly, endorse Jon Tester for the US Senate

Thanks, Rob I'm glad to have you on board

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Oct. 10, 2005 at 4:33 pm
Comments 1 Comment Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

Trusting Big Sandy Over Washington, D.C.

You might have seen it last week, a little article in the *National Journal*, Washington, D C 's, most insider publication, that said that any candidate seen with Big Sandy's Jeff Ament and Pearl Jam was a surefire loser in Montana

Quite frankly, I was a little ticked off But I didn't give it much thought because taking advice on winning elections from Washington, D C , can be a bit like taking a business ethics class from Jack Abramoff, the Washington lobbyist tied to Conrad Burns and under indictment for wire fraud and conspiracy

But then one of my primary opponents, John Morrison, decided that he needed to distribute this article across the state of Montana

Let me tell you this **I don't like Washington insiders telling me I can't be seen with my old friends from Big Sandy** Montanans stick together, and don't forget friends just because some D C insider thinks that friends are disposable That's not the Montana way

I grew up with Jeff Ament of Pearl Jam Jeff is a Big Sandy boy like me His father was Mayor, and gave me my first flattop haircut. I taught Jeff's sisters and brother music in school And Jeff and I used to play pickup basketball games together

Jeff has been fortunate to make a good living doing what he loves playing music Year after year he gives back to the people and youth of Montana, the state he still calls home today

I'm running for the U S Senate because I think Conrad Burns has lost touch with this state I sure won't forget my Montana values and roots and family and friends

That's a promise This Montana farmer knows what matters I'm running to represent Montanans all Montanans And, yes, even my friend from Big Sandy, Jeff Ament, can count on me too

Posted by **Jon Tester** on Oct. 10, 2005 at 2:41 pm
Comments 3 Comments | Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

Grizzlies. You Like Us! You Really Like Us!

Wow

I just wanted to thank everyone who marched with Jon Tester at the homecoming parade Your energy is absolutely contagious and Jon Tester will win if you keep it up

Honestly, people were just lining the sidewalks chanting, "TESTER! TESTER! TESTER!"

That was so awesome

Also, a shout out to the U of M College Democrats — 85 people at your first meeting. Great job on turnout calls and tabling. Keep us at the Tester campaign updated on how we can help

I hope everyone's homecoming was as fun as the parade

Photos will be up tomorrow

Posted by **Jess Grennan** on Oct. 03, 2005 at 8:23 pm
Comments None | Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

Homecoming on Saturday

Jon was in Missoula on Saturday for the Homecoming Parade Jess Grennan, our staffer who was there with him, has promised a report and pictures later today Look forward to it.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Oct. 03, 2005 at 9:47 am
Comments None | Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

You Did It Thank You

[Jon Tester sent the following email to members of the campaign today. To sign up to receive updates from the campaign, click here.]

Your response and the result of your efforts is amazing.

At the end of June, Montanans for Tester had raised just over $55,000 and had just a few hundred known supporters around the state

The pundits wondered if we could win this race

You've shown them the answer is YES and in just three short months you have built a statewide campaign strong enough to **win the Democratic primary in June** and **defeat Conrad Burns next November**

We're still tallying the final numbers of our fundraising efforts If you made a financial contribution this quarter, **I want to thank you** we know we've exceeded our internal goals thanks to your incredible efforts

But all of you have played a critical role in getting us to where we are—and I am deeply grateful for every person's efforts Whether by joining this email list . recruiting your friends . going to the Pearl Jam show in Missoula or volunteering your time or giving your hard earned money, **you have been the heart and soul and reason for our campaign's success so far.** None of this would be possible without you

We'll be reporting the final fundraising numbers to the FEC in a few weeks but I didn't want to wait to express my deepest appreciation for everything everyone has done We've gotten to this incredible place because of your efforts, and next November we'll send Montana values to Washington, D C the same way by **working together**

Thank you for everything you do,

Jon Tester

Posted by **Guest Writer** on Oct. 01, 2005 at 9:45 am
Comments None | Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

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Happy Thanksgiving

I'm headed out tomorrow to do Thanksgiving Dinner with my family Jon was on the road today to his mother's house I'm sure many of you are doing similar travels Be safe Enjoy the holiday Feel free to share your thoughts in the comments

And make sure you make enough food for their to be leftovers It wasn't Thanksgiving growing up if we weren't eating turkey sandwiches, turkey a la king (OK, we used the less formal, less family appropriate name at times), and other variations on the staple food for weeks Thankfully, we didn't repeat the whole thing at Christmas, opting for pasties instead

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Nov 23, 2005 at 6:46 pm
Comments None | Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

The War in Iraq

As many of you saw in the email, Jon laid out a policy for Iraq today A more complete description of his reasoning is available at TesterForSenate.com

Feel free to use the comments thread here to discuss the stance

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Nov 09, 2005 at 9:45 am
Comments 11 Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

Fighting for Choice...and Responsibility

[Jon sent the following email to members of the campaign earlier this morning.]

Over the last five years, radical activists have been waging a stealth campaign targeting reproductive freedom and the choice they are targeting is whether Americans should be able to plan their families

We're not talking about access to abortion We're talking about access to contraception

Contraception shouldn't be a controversial issue It prevents unintended pregnancies and prevents abortions

Indeed, it's the very medical breakthrough that has made widespread responsible family planning possible

It wasn't until the mid 1960s that women had legal access to contraception Now women and families need to have access to contraception in health coverage

Yet today there is a quiet war being waged regarding access to contraception And here in Montana, most insurance plans don't cover birth control, even when they cover Viagra

I don't think that's right

I have requested a legal opinion from the Attorney General of Montana to clarify whether insurance companies that provide prescription drug coverage must also, by law, cover contraception

I think we have a good case and that we'll prevail on this issue The law is on our side That's good

This is an issue of fairness and basic health for Montanans It also gets to the heart of Montana values freedom, choice, and responsibility This is about making sure women and families have access to health coverage and Montanans can make their own decisions

That means that soon, in Montana, women and families will have the insurance coverage they need and deserve

That's the sort of thing we should all be able to agree on

Sincerely,

Jon Tester

PS Help us bring Montana values to Washington by forwarding this email to your friends and family, and asking them to join the campaign at http://www.testerforsenate.com/join/ Or make a financial contribution at: http://www.testerforsenate.com/contribute/

Posted by **Jon Tester** on Nov 04, 2005 at 11:00 am
Comments 1 Comment Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

The Gazette Nails it: Rotten Politics at Work

The *Billings Gazette* editorial page this morning nails it on Country of Origin Labeling They note that virtually everything except meat has a nice label explaining where it came from, but what we do for tortilla companies, we can't do for American ranchers for some reason

But the problem isn't necessarily the commitment of Montana or Wyoming Republicans It's that their party leadership in Washington is so beholden to special interests that they won't even pay attention to members of their own caucus

> Wyoming's U S senators, Mike Enzi and Craig Thomas, both Republicans, jointly called for conferees to block efforts to delay COOL. The Wyoming duo has introduced legislation to move up labeling implementation to January 2006. Rep Denny Rehberg, R-Mont., also has been a vocal proponent of COOL. Likewise, U S Sen Conrad Burns last week said he is "furious" with the latest delay But these Montana and Wyoming Republicans have been unable to sway their party
>
> In Montana, state Sen Jon Tester, D-Big Sandy, a candidate for the Senate seat Burns now holds, was the chief sponsor of Montana COOL legislation that was signed into law to take effect next year, if the federal law doesn't.

When Democrats took back the reins of power here in Montana, it took the leadership of Jon Tester, Brian Schweitzer, and Bob Bergren one session to deliver on COOL. We've been waiting 4 years at the federal level It looks like it might be time for change in Washington

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Nov 02, 2005 at 10:04 am
Comments None | Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

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Jon Sends a "Loud and Clear" Message to the Democratic Party

Check out Jon's latest diary at Daily Kos In it, he reflects on the legislative session, the special session, and the effectiveness of politics of principle

He also highlights *The Nation*'s latest editorial, in which the magazine says that the election of candidates like Jon won't just send a signal to Washington that times are changing, but also send a message to the Democratic Party

It's a must-read

Also, if you haven't had a chance yet, you should check out Governor Schweitzer's talk following the special session, you should check it out. He has some high words of praise for our man Jon Tester

Honestly, check it out and share it with your friends

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Dec 29, 2005 at 3:18 pm
Comments 2 Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Merry Christmas!

I'm sure most of you are finishing your traveling or (like me) your last minute shopping and wrapping If you've got a couple minutes, though, consider reading Jon's take on the recent successful special session

And enjoy the holidays!

Posted by **Guest Writer** on Dec 22, 2005 at 12:16 pm
Comments None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Over 60% of the Way There

We've now raised over 60% of fundraising goal for December with over $6,100 coming in online

Help finish the job!

Posted by **Guest Writer** on Dec 19, 2005 at 10:54 am
Comments None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Fundraising Update

As of **3:45 PM MST**,
we've received **20 online donations**
in December for a total of **$2,145.02**.

21.45% of the way to the goal!

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Dec 08, 2005 at 4:48 pm
Comments None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Already Going Well

~~**11:00 AM**~~ **12:45 PM**
~~**$645.02**~~ **$2,075.03**
~~**11 Donors**~~ **17 Donors**

Well, Jon asked and the grassroots are already answering. As of 11:00 AM, we're at over $600 raised and the message has only been out for an hour

Thanks everyone and please, keep it coming

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Dec 07, 2005 at 11:58 am
Comments 1 Comment | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Help Us Wrap Montana in Blue!

[Note Jon sent the following email out today To sign up to receive emails, click here]

When the Holidays are over, we'll be just six months out until Primary Day

I want to thank you for all your support already Together, we've helped move the debate forward on Iraq, on our nation's energy policy, and on the Medicare prescription drug plan And we've sent a strong message to Senator Burns that he needs to protect public access to public lands for all Montanans—and that we Montanans don't want our public lands sold off

In the next six months, I'll continue to stand up for the values that we share And I'll continue to lay out my platform for working families in Montana

But to win on Primary Day, and defeat Conrad Burns in November, we need to take our campaign to the next level by ramping up our grassroots field efforts Our goal is to raise $10,000 for our field efforts, so we can "wrap Montana in blue" next year

http://www.testerforsenate.com/december/

Our support across the state is strong We have volunteers chomping at the bit to win the primary and send Conrad Burns packing in November But we need your commitment today to empower our grassroots support in the New Year Please, consider making a special gift to our campaign at this time.

We already know what our opponents plan to do in this race They plan to raise as much money from high dollar sources as they can, hoping that their bundles of money will conceal how out of touch they are with working Montanans

But we are going to beat them the old-fashioned Montana way—by spreading the word, neighbor to neighbor, and letting people know that in 2006 we have the opportunity to send real Montana values to Washington

But we need your support to get that word out. Please, donate today, and help us meet our goal

Together, we'll Wrap Montana in Blue for 2006.

Jon Tester

[Cross posted at Daily Kos.]

Posted by **Guest Writer** on Dec 07, 2005 at 10:05 am
Comments 2 Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

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Havre Daily News: Burns an Embarassment to Montana

The Havre Daily News follows Conrad Burns' tracks through the national media in an opinion piece and concludes our Junior Senator "has embarassed this state" due to his dealings with Jack Abramoff. The editors encourage Montanans to look into the facts surrounding the investigation before believing Burns' advertising hype.

The piece concludes by calling out Conrad's "aw shucks" strategy:

> Rather than respond to legitimate questions, Burns would rather have us all think that he's just a simple country boy and that we're just a bunch of simple country folk.
>
> He isn't, and we aren't.

Conrad Burns is implicated up in a complex web of Beltway deals that's far from country and even farther from simple. He has taken more money from Jack Abramoff, his clients, and his associates than anyone else in Congress.

Time for a change? Take a look at Jon Tester's ethics proposal, a simple plan to bring ethics back to the U.S. Senate.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jan. 31, 2006 at 3:34 pm
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Web Ad Holds Burns' Feet to the Fire

Earlier this week Montana Newspapers reported on our Web Ad in response to Conrad Burns' media buy. Buzz about the ad is spreading truth about Conrad Burns' relationship to Jack Abramoff. Montanans are sick and tired of the culture of corruption in Washington D.C. And, with $200,000 in airtime, they're probably growing sick of Senator Burns' political spin during the nightly news.

The Billings Gazette piece covering our Web Ad includes a response from National Republican Senitorial Committee. Their spokesman, Brian Nick, dodges the content of the ad, chosing to attack Democrats instead.

Montanans have demanded Conrad Burns explain his dealings with Jack Abramoff. We've pushed our Junior Senator to explain his stance on Social Security privatization and his votes on Amtrak and pesticide testing.

And in return, we're served political spin.

If you haven't already, take a look at the ad on our website.

Like what you see? Help us spread the truth by signing up to volunteer, or making a contribution today.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jan. 31, 2006 at 11:59 am
Comments: 1 Comment | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Setting the Record Straight

[Jon Tester sent the following email to campaign members this morning. To sign up to receive free campaign alerts, click here.]

If you've been around a TV anywhere in Montana lately, you've seen Conrad Burns' latest twist of his relationship with Washington lobbyists.

Senator Burns says he's setting the record straight on his relationship with disgraced lobbyist Jack Abramoff. But his ad is straight up political spin.

We put together a response to Senator Burns that offers what all Montanans deserve — the truth.

View the video response, "Setting the Record Straight":

http://www.testerforsenate.com/video/BurnsVideo.htm

Read a transcript and factsheet of the video (opens in PDF):

http://www.testerforsenate.com/video/SettingtheRecordStraight.pdf

Conrad Burns has lost touch with Montana. These days, he seems more likely to fight for powerful Washington interests than Montana working families concerned about jobs, health care, education, and high energy costs.

The culture of corruption and cronyism in Washington has to end. We need a Senator who's willing to take on the powerful interests to fight and get the work done for Montanans and Americans, not K Street lobbyists who pay to play in the halls of Congress.

Conrad Burns has dropped more than $200,000 on media all over Montana to spin his relationship with Jack Abramoff. But you can help counter his attempts to distort the truth by forwarding this message to a friend. And help us continue to set the record straight by making a contribution today.

Thank you for all that you do.

Jon Tester

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jan. 27, 2006 at 10:57 am
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

No on Alito

[Jon Tester sent the following email to campaign members this morning. To sign up to receive free campaign alerts, click here.]

I wanted to take a moment to share with you my views on the Senate's upcoming vote to confirm or reject Samuel Alito's nomination to replace Sandra Day O'Connor on the U.S. Supreme Court.

After careful consideration, I have come to the conclusion that the U.S. Senate needs to reject the nomination of Samuel Alito.

There are simply too many reasons to doubt this nomination and not enough reasons to have faith in it.

For example, when applying for a job, Judge Alito made it clear that he disagreed legally with such fundamental Constitutional principles as the right of one person, one vote.

Yet without the fundamental belief in America that we are all created equal under the law, we can have no justice.

I'm also deeply disappointed by Judge Alito's broken promises to the U.S. Senate. When confirmed to sit on a circuit court, Judge Alito said that he would recuse himself from cases involving certain parties where he had a vested interest. Yet he failed to do that.

Simply put, Samuel Alito is the wrong person for the court, and the wrong person for our country.

Judge Alito was reported out of the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday on a straight party-line vote, which shows just how partisan President Bush's choice for the Supreme Court really is.

And if Judge Alito becomes the same judge on the Supreme Court that he was on the Court of Appeals, we all could see more government intrusion in our daily lives, broader presidential power without checks and balances, and a reduced right to privacy. And as we Montanans know, we pride ourselves on our constitutional right to privacy.

That's why we need an independent Supreme Court to:

- Protect the system of checks and balances that protects the Constitution and our democracy
- Protect Americans from a presidential abuse of power
- And uphold the rule of law

That's why I believe the U.S. Senate needs to reject the nomination of Samuel Alito.

Thank you for your continued support,

Jon Tester

P.S. Please forward this email to your friends and family and ask them to join you in supporting our campaign. They can join for free by visiting: http://www.testerforsenate.com/join/

Posted by **Guest Writer** on Jan. 26, 2006 at 11:21 am
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Tester Calls Both Parties Ethics Reforms "Not Enough"

[Jon released the following Press Release earlier today.]

Tester Calls Both Parties Ethics Reforms "Not Enough"

Tester Announces He'll Live by Stricter Rules

Ethics changes proposed by Democrats and Republicans in Washington this week "are just not enough to change the "pay-to-play" culture of Washington," says Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate Jon Tester, who Thursday announced his plans to fight for — and abide by — far stricter ethics standards.

"In the light of the Republican corruption scandals that Conrad Burns' relationship with Jack Abramoff have highlighted, Washington politicians of all stripes are scrambling to get behind anything they can call reform," Tester said. "But the proposals I have seen this week are just not enough to change the 'pay-to-play' culture of Washington.

"I'm all for strengthening rules, but it's even more important to change the culture of corruption. We need to let Washington know now that the 'For Sale' sign has to come down, and Conrad Burns' days of 'pay-to-play' are ending," Tester said. "But judging by how some of the so-called reforms being discussed this week are already meeting resistance from Washington insiders — senators and lobbyists — I'm not going to hold my breath. We simply can't trust the foxes to guard the henhouse and enact reforms.

"What Montanans expect and deserve is a senator who can be counted on to bring Montana's values to Washington rather than abandoning those values once he gets there," Tester said. "Today I'm announcing the rules I will live and work by, regardless of whether any of these other measures are passed. And I pledge this — I'll get tougher on ethics issues as time goes by, no matter who stands against me."

Tester released the following pledge:

> I won't just pass a law, I'll set an example. I will fight hard to put an end to the culture of corruption in Washington, and I'll live by a higher standard — a Montana standard of honesty, integrity and personal responsibility. And I'll ask a Montana judge to conduct an ethics audit of my office every year so Montanans know I'm living up to their expectations.
>
> I'll ban all lobbyist gifts, meals and travel paid by outside sources. All of it. That includes travel, lodging and meals in conjunction with fundraisers. I won't take personal favors from lobbyists, and neither will my staff.
>
> I'll shut my door to former members and staff who try to cash in on their connections. I will not allow my staff or myself to be lobbied by any former member of the Senate with whom I have served or by a former member of my staff who becomes a registered federal lobbyist. And I'll work to expand the current ban on lobbying by former members and staff to three years to shut the revolving door for those who want to profit from the connections they made in public service.
>
> I'll end secret meetings with lobbyists. At the end of every business day I will post a list of every in-office meeting that I or my staff has had with a lobbyist. And I will work to require all lobbyists to declare on a publicly available website, on a weekly basis, every meeting they have with a member's office.
>
> I'll work to end the anonymous 'earmarks' that allow a member of the Senate or the House to slip in a lobbyist's favorite pork barrel spending item without any accountability. I'll fight my hardest for Montana and I'll do it openly. And I'll use the bully pulpit of the Senate floor to call attention to every anonymous earmark.
>
> - I'll close loopholes, not loosen them. Those seeking special access to senators are like water — they'll always seek out the cracks in the wall. Lobbyists will always try to find a loophole, even on the strictest rules. So I'll keep looking for ways to stop them, and the corrupt legislators they hope to influence.

###

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jan. 19, 2006 at 3:20 pm
Comments: 8 Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Building Bridges

We found some compelling analysis on the changing political picture in Montana by Rick Bass in Grist Magazine yesterday. Writing about a new wilderness bill for Northwest Montana, Bass outlines the 2006 U.S. Senate contest in Montana.

> Burns' support and cosponsorship of the bill might be well advised — speaking of the circularity of things — in light of the fact that his likely Democratic challenger in 2006 might well embrace it first. That challenger is a crew-cut eastern Montanan, and sudden golden child of many progressives, named Jon Tester.
>
> Tester, who has served as president of the state Senate, would have to defeat fellow Democrat John Morrison — who, like Burns, boasts superior financing — in the primary this June to face Burns. Despite those odds, hopes are riding on him. Interestingly, despite the green credibility garnered by the conversion of his family's farm to an organic operation, the energy surrounding his campaign is not environmentally driven. Instead, **it seems fueled by general idealism, the desire for a certain cleanness and integrity.**
>
> The high-dollar organic grains are about as wild and crazy, as progressive, as Tester gets, which seems to be just about the amount Montanans are pining for these days: not the regressive howlings of Newt Gingrich's "Contract with America" politics, and not the old-school progressivism of politicians like Williams, yet. **Like Schweitzer, Tester is homegrown;** he knows that guns in Montana are not the same as guns in the inner city. Maybe a word for these new Montana Democrats might be transgressive — easing, edging, into the future, and moving, finally, out of the past, even as they carry certain useful and beloved elements of it with them.
>
> Whoever emerges from the spring primary should have an interesting shot, given the Montana tilt toward the Democratic Party, and the negative ratings of Burns, who, this year more than ever, has a reputation as a bridge burner. The latter tack will always be able to rally a certain core constituency, but what if — after 20 years — he is behind the times, and Montanans decide they would rather build bridges than burn them?

Sick of burning bridges and ethically challenged politics? So are we! Show your support for Jon Tester today, and help us bring honesty and personal responsibility to the U.S. Senate.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jan. 19, 2006 at 3:15 pm
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Tribes Reject Tainted Burns Abramoff Money

USA Today has the latest on Conrad Burns' attempts to run from Jack Abramoff and his associates' campaign contributions. The Montana-Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council has refused the cash, and the Great Falls Tribune reports that the Blackfeet Community College has refused the money as well.

From the USA Today piece:

> WASHINGTON (AP) — The Montana-Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council has rejected a $111,000 donation from the campaign of Montana Sen. Conrad Burns, with some saying the money is tainted because it originally came from lobbyist Jack Abramoff and his clients.
>
> James Steele Jr., also chairman of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, said yesterday that the council voted not to accept the donation, which was made up of contributions from Abramoff, his associates and his tribal clients.
>
> In a statement Wednesday, Burns campaign chairman Mark Baker called the decision "disappointing" and said Burns would redirect most of the funds to the tribes that originally donated the money. Burns, a Republican, said in December that he would give away and return $146,700 in donations in order to avoid the appearance of improper connections to Abramoff, who pleaded guilty two weeks ago to federal corruption charges.
>
> Abramoff admitted to conspiring to defraud Indian tribes, which he sometimes directed to make contributions to lawmakers. Since his plea agreement, many lawmakers have rushed to donate money connected to him and his clients or return it.
>
> "To us it's tainted money," Doney said Wednesday. "If he wanted us to have extra money, he would have given it to us in other ways."

So, Senator Burns cannot return the tainted money to the tribes who donated to his campaign and Montana tribes are refusing the funds. Check back to see where the money ends up.

Here's an idea — maybe we can use Senator Burns' backpedaling on Abramoff donations to power our state in the face of global warming. Conrad's backpedaling is certainly a renewable resource — but probably not the cleanest power we might find.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jan. 19, 2006 at 3:10 pm
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Tester Beats Morrison, Ties Against Burns

[Bill Lombardi sent the following email to campaign members today. To sign up to receive emails, click here.]

Your hard work is paying off.

The latest Rasmussen Reports poll of Montana voters — out today — shows Jon Tester tied with Conrad Burns, 45 percent to 45 percent.

The same poll shows that Conrad Burn would beat State Auditor John Morrison, 46 percent to 43 percent.

That's a double-digit gain for our campaign in less than four months. As the Rasmussen Report says:

> [Burns'] re-election effort is apparently suffering from lobbyist Jack Abramoff's guilty plea and widely publicized agreement — to cooperate in the investigation of congressmen who may also have broken the law. [Conrad Burns] recently returned $150,000 in contributions from Abramoff.

But while Conrad Burns' entanglement with Jack Abramoff and special interest lobbyist money may be turning off voters, it's your grassroots effort and support that are truly propelling Jon Tester's campaign.

Every email you've forwarded, every friend you've asked to join our email list, every dollar you've contributed has gotten us to where we are today.

But we can't let up. The Burns campaign hopes to throw $10 million of their special-interest lobbyist money into this race, and they'll do anything to hang on to their seat.

So please, take a moment to redouble your efforts. Forward this email on to your friends and family, and ask them to join you in supporting Jon Tester for U.S. Senate. And if you are able, consider making a contribution to the campaign today:

http://www.testerforsenate.com/contribute/

We've gained incredible momentum. Keep up the hard work — and together we'll send Montana values to Washington, D.C., in November.

Bill Lombardi
Montanans for Tester

(Also posted at Daily Kos.)

Posted by **Guest Writer** on Jan. 11, 2006 at 11:12 am
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Tester Stands Up for Fair Wages

[Jon released the following statement earlier today.]

> Tester: "Minimum Wage Initiative is 'Moral Necessity'"
>
> *"If you work full time, you should make fair wage. That's common sense."*
>
> January 10, 2006 (BIG SANDY, MT) — U.S. Senate candidate Jon Tester today endorsed the citizens' initiative to raise Montana's minimum wage by a dollar an hour, from $5.15 to $6.15 an hour.
>
> "The minimum wage initiative speaks to whether we value work," Tester said. "Raising Montana's minimum wage to $6.15 an hour will allow more workers to support their families, more families to make ends meet, and more Montanans to go to work instead of going on welfare. That saves taxpayers' money."
>
> The initiative could be placed on the November 2006 ballot.
>
> "Polls show that Montanans want this," Tester said. "But I don't need a poll to tell me it's the right thing to do. The last time Montanans tried to raise the minimum wage, special interests helped defeat it. I'll do everything I can to make sure that doesn't happen this year. Montana's working families deserve a raise."
>
> Montana, Tester noted, ranked dead last — 50th — in the nation in annual average wages for its workers from 1999 through 2004. And Montana ranked third nationally in 2004 for multiple job holders (holding two or more jobs) as a percentage of total employment in the state, Tester added.
>
> Tester has fought for a boost in the minimum wage.
>
> In the 2005 Legislature, under Senate President Tester's leadership, the Montana Senate passed Senate Bill 78, which would have increased Montana's minimum wage to $6.00 an hour. Tester voted for the bill. But the measure was defeated in the evenly divided Montana House of Representatives on a party-line vote.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jan. 10, 2006 at 2:36 pm
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

News Roundup — Cleaning Up the Culture of Corruption

Montanans for Tester hit the ground running and earned national media attention in the first week of 2006—Jon's call for an end to the culture of corruption in Washington D.C. was featured in recent news articles.

In The Guardian yesterday, commentator Gary Younge discusses the Abramoff plea agreement and highlights Jon Tester's efforts to bring integrity to the U.S. Senate.

From the story:

> "'This kind of politics,' said Democrat Jon Tester, 'doesn't really represent the rank and file folks that are out there every day trying to make ends meet.' Tester is challenging Montana's Republican senator, Conrad Burns, who had close ties to Abramoff."

The author doesn't pull any punches and criticizes many members of congress from both sides of the aisle for their deep ties to the pocketbooks of corporate lobbyists. As President of the Montana Senate, Jon Tester worked to help main street businesses, develop renewable energy, and bring meaningful prescription drug coverage to Montanans. Tester has always demonstrated his commitment to the needs of everyday Montanans and shown he can counteract the pay-to-play political game in government.

Last week, the Los Angeles Times also commented on the "culture of corruption" in the Republican Congress. Ronald Brownstein's piece cites Tester's efforts to bring accountability and honest leadership to Washington D.C.

The Great Falls Tribune also featured words from Tester on cleaning up government.

> "Senate President Jon Tester, D-Big Sandy, one of the four, called the Abramoff plea 'sad.'
>
> 'What this indicates is that the culture of corruption in Washington, D.C., is real and it needs to be cleaned up,' Tester said. 'Those congressmen who are affiliated with this pay-to-play situation need to be replaced with people who have integrity and honesty and want to represent the people of Montana.'"

It's time for honest leadership for Montana in the U.S. Senate. Join the campaign by signing up for our email list, volunteering, or making a contribution today.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jan. 10, 2006 at 2:32 pm
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

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          <![CDATA[ <p><a href="http://www.havredailynews.com/articles/2006/01/27/editorials/our%20view.txt">The Havre Daily News </a>follows Conrad Burns&#8217; tracks through the national media in an opinion piece and concludes our junior Senator &#8220;has embarassed this state&#8221;, due to his dealings with Jack Abramoff. The editors encourage Montanans to look into the facts surrounding the investigation before believing Burns&#8217; advertising hype. </p> <p>The piece concludes by calling out Conrad&#8217;s &#8220;aw shucks&#8221; strategy:</p> <blockquote><p>Rather than respond to legitimate questions, Burns would rather have us all think that he&#8217;s just a simple country boy and that we&#8217;re just a bunch of simple country folk.</p> <p>He isn&#8217;t, and we aren&#8217;t.</p></blockquote> <p>Conrad Burns is implicated up in a <a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/graphic/2005/12/12/GR2005121200286.html">complex web of Beltway deals</a> that&#8217;s far from country and even farther from simple. He has taken more money from Jack Abramoff, his clients, and his associates than anyone else in Congress.</p> <p>Time for a change? Take a look at <a href="http://testerforsenate.com/?p=62">Jon Tester&#8217;s ethics proposal</a>&#8211;a simple plan to bring ethics back to the U.S. Senate. </p> ]]>
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          <![CDATA[ <p><i>[Jon Tester sent the following email to campaign members this morning. To sign up to receive free campaign alerts, <a href="http://www.testerforsenate.com/join/">click here</a>.]</i></p> <p>I wanted to take a moment to share with you my views on the Senate's upcoming vote to confirm or reject Samuel Alito's nomination to replace Sandra Day O'Connor on the U.S. Supreme Court.</p> <p>After careful consideration, I have come to the conclusion that the U.S. Senate needs to reject the nomination of Samuel Alito. </p> <p>There are simply too many reasons to doubt this nomination and not enough reasons to have faith in it.</p> <p>For example, when applying for a job, Judge Alito made it clear that he disagreed legally with such fundamental Constitutional principles as the right of one person, one vote. </p> <p>Yet without the fundamental belief in America that we are all created equal under the law, we can have no justice. </p> <p>I'm also deeply disappointed by Judge Alito's broken promises to the U.S. Senate. When confirmed to sit on a circuit court, Judge Alito said that he would recuse himself from cases involving certain parties where he had a vested interest. Yet he failed to do that.</p> <p>Simply put, Samuel Alito is the wrong person for the court, and the wrong person for our country. </p> <p>Judge Alito was reported out of the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday on a straight party-line vote, which shows just how partisan President Bush's choice for the Supreme Court really is.</p> <p>And if Judge Alito becomes the same judge on the Supreme Court that he was on the Court of Appeals, we all could see more government intrusion in our daily lives, broader presidential power without checks and balances, and a reduced right to privacy. And as we Montanans know, we pride ourselves on our constitutional right to privacy. </p> <p>That's why we need an independent Supreme Court to:</p> <ul> <li> &#8212; Protect the system of checks and balances that protects the Constitution and our democracy </li> <li> &#8212; Protect Americans from a presidential abuse of power </li> <li> &#8212; And uphold the rule of law </li> </ul> </p> <p>That's why I believe the U.S. Senate needs to reject the nomination of Samuel Alito.</p> <p>Thank you for your continued support,</p> <p>Jon Tester</p> <p>P.S. Please forward this email to your friends and family and ask them to join you in supporting our campaign. They can join for free by visiting: <a href="http://www.testerforsenate.com/join/">http://www.testerforsenate.com/join/</a> </p> ]]>
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          <![CDATA[ <p><em>[Jon released the following Press Release earlier today.]</em></p> <p><ins datetime="2006-01-19T20:37:03+00:00">Tester Calls Both Parties Ethics Reforms &#8220;Not Enough&#8221;,</ins></p> <p><em>Tester Announces He'll Live by Stricter Rules</em></p> <p>Ethics changes proposed by Democrats and Republicans in Washington this week "are just not enough to change the "pay-to-play" culture of Washington," says Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate Jon Tester, who Thursday announced his plans to fight for &#8212; and abide by &#8212; far stricter ethics standards.</p> <p>"In the light of the Republican corruption scandals that Conrad Burns' relationship with Jack Abramoff have highlighted, Washington politicians of all stripes are scrambling to get behind anything they can call reform," Tester said. "But the proposals I have seen this week are just not enough to change the 'pay-to-play' culture of Washington.</p> <p>"I'm all for strengthening rules, but it's even more important to change the culture of corruption. We need to let Washington know now that the 'For Sale' sign has to come down, and Conrad Burns' days of 'pay-to-play' are ending," Tester said. "But judging by how some of the so-called reforms being discussed this week are already meeting resistance from Washington insiders &#8212; senators and lobbyists &#8212; I'm not going to hold my breath. We simply can't trust the foxes to guard the henhouse and enact reforms.</p> <p>"What Montanans expect and deserve is a senator who can be counted on to bring Montana's values to Washington rather than abandoning those values once he gets there," Tester said. "Today I'm announcing the rules I will live and work by, regardless of whether any of these other measures are passed. And I pledge this &#8212; I'll get tougher on ethics issues as time goes by, no matter who stands against me."</p> <p>Tester released the following pledge:</p> <blockquote><p>&#8211; I won't just pass a law. I'll set an example. I will fight hard to put an end to the culture of corruption in Washington, and I'll live by a higher standard &#8212; a Montana standard of honesty, integrity and personal responsibility. And I'll ask a Montana judge to conduct an ethics audit of my office every year so Montanans know I'm living up to their expectations.</p> <p>&#8211; I'll ban all lobbyist gifts, meals and travel paid by outside sources. All of it. That includes travel, lodging and meals in conjunction with fundraisers. I won't take personal favors from lobbyists, and neither will my staff. </p> <p>&#8211; I'll shut my door to former members and staff who try to cash in on their connections. I will not allow my staff or myself to be lobbied by any former member of the Senate with whom I have served or by a former member of my staff who becomes a registered federal lobbyist. And I'll work to expand the current ban on lobbying by former members and staff to three years to shut the revolving door for those who want to profit from the connections they made in public service. </p> <ul> <p> I'll end secret meetings with lobbyists. At the end of every business day I will post a list of every in-office meeting that I or my staff has had with a lobbyist. And I will work to require all lobbyists to declare on a publicly available website, on a weekly basis, every meeting they have with a member's office.</p> <p>&#8211; I'll work to end the anonymous 'earmarks' that allow a member of the Senate or the House to slip in a lobbyist's favorite pork-barrel spending item without any accountability. I'll fight my hardest for Montana and I'll do it openly. And I'll use the bully pulpit of the Senate floor to call attention to every anonymous earmark. </p> <li> &#8211; I'll close loopholes, not loosen them. Those seeking special access to senators are like water &#8212; they'll always seek out the cracks in the wall. Lobbyists will always try to find a loophole, even on the strictest rules. So I'll keep looking for ways to stop them, and the corrupt legislators they hope to influence.</li> </ul> </blockquote> <p>### </p> ]]>
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          <![CDATA[ <p>We found some compelling analysis on the changing political picture in Montana by Rick Bass in <a href="http://www.grist.org/news/maindish/2006/01/18/bass/">Grist Magazine</a> yesterday. Writing about a new wilderness bill for Northwest Montana, Bass outlines the 2006 U.S. Senate contest in Montana. </p> <blockquote><p> Burns&#8217; support and cosponsorship of the bill might be well-advised &#8212; speaking of the circularity of things &#8212; in light of the fact that his likely Democratic challenger in 2006 might well embrace it first. That challenger is a crew-cut eastern Montanan and sudden golden child of many progressives, named Jon Tester. </p> <p>Tester, who has served as president of the state Senate, would have to defeat fellow Democrat John Morrison &#8212; who, like Burns, boasts superior financing &#8212; in the primary this June to face Burns. Despite those odds, hopes are riding on him. Interestingly, despite the green credibility garnered by the conversion of his family&#8217;s farm to an organic operation, the energy surrounding his campaign is not environmentally driven. Instead, <strong>it seems fueled by general idealism, the desire for a certain cleanness and integrity.</strong></p> <p>The high-dollar organic grains are about as wild and crazy, as progressive, as Tester gets, which seems to be just about the amount Montanans are pining for these days: not the regressive howlings of Newt Gingrich&#8217;s &#8220;Contract with America&#8221; politics, and not the old-school progressivism of politicians like Williams, yet. <strong>Like Schweitzer, Tester is homegrown;</strong> he knows that guns in Montana are not the same as guns in the inner city. Maybe a word for these new Montana Democrats might be transgressive &#8212; easing, edging, into the future, and moving, finally, out of the past, even as they carry certain useful and beloved elements of it with them. </p> <p>Whoever emerges from the spring primary should have an interesting shot, given the Montana tilt toward the Democratic Party and the negative ratings of Burns, who, this year more than ever, has a reputation as a bridge burner. The latter tack will always be able to rally a certain core constituency, but what if &#8212; after 20 years &#8212; he is behind the times, and Montanans decide they would rather build bridges than burn them? </p></blockquote> <p><a href="http://www.testerforsenate.com/?page_id=13">Sick of burning bridges and ethically challenged politics?</a> So are we. <a href="https://services.myngp.com/ngponlineservices/contribution.aspx?X=e1KIvTAo%2bAmCtmj%2fChTgBQ%3d%3d">Show your support for Jon Tester today.</a> and help us bring honesty and personal responsibility to the U.S. Senate. </p> ]]>
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          <![CDATA[ <p><a href="http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2006-01-18-indians-burns_x.htm">USA Today</a> has the latest on Conrad Burns' attempts to run from Jack Abramoff and his associates' campaign contributions. The Montana-Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council has refused the cash, and the <a href="http://www.greatfallstribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060119/NEWS01/601190312/1002">Great Falls Tribune</a> reports that the Blackfeet Community College has refused the money as well. </p> <p>From the USA Today piece:</p> <blockquote><p>WASHINGTON (AP) — The Montana-Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council has rejected a $111,000 donation from the campaign of Montana Sen. Conrad Burns, with some saying the money is tainted because it originally came from lobbyist Jack Abramoff and his clients.</p> <p>James Steele Jr., also chairman of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, said yesterday that the council voted not to accept the donation, which was made up of contributions from Abramoff, his associates and his tribal clients. </p> <p>In a statement Wednesday, Burns campaign chairman Mark Baker called the decision &#8220;disappointing&#8221;, and said Burns would redirect most of the funds to the tribes that originally donated the money. Burns, a Republican, said in December that he would give away and return $146,700 in donations in order to avoid the appearance of improper connections to Abramoff, who pleaded guilty two weeks ago to federal corruption charges.</p> <p>Abramoff admitted to conspiring to defraud Indian tribes, which he sometimes directed to make contributions to lawmakers. Since his plea agreement, many lawmakers have rushed to donate money connected to him and his clients or return it. </p> <p>&#8220;To us it&#8217;s tainted money,&#8221; Doney said Wednesday. &#8220;If he wanted us to have extra money, he would have given it to us in other ways.&#8221;,</p></blockquote> <p>So, Senator Burns cannot return the tainted money to the tribes who donated to his campaign and Montana tribes are refusing the funds. Check back to see where the money ends up. </p> <p>Here's an idea &#8212; maybe we can use Senator Burns' backpedaling on Abramoff donations to <a href="http://www.billingsgazette.com/index.php?id=1&#038;display=rednews/2006/01/19/build/state/70-goabl-warming-gov.inc">power our state in the face of global warming</a>. Conrad's backpedaling is certainly a renewable resource—but probably not the cleanest power we might find. </p> ]]>
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Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Blog?

Blog is short for web log. It's an interactive online journal, and a gathering place where you can discuss Jon Tester's campaign for U S Senate

Why are some words on the blog in orange letters?

These words are links to other pages around the web, clicking the colored words will take you there

What does it mean to link? And what is a blogroll?

We provide links to relevant stories, articles, or websites on our blog; we also maintain a "Blogroll" of other Democratic or Montana weblogs However, Montanans for Tester does not monitor, control or endorse any website linked to from this page, and is not responsible for the content of external sites linked to from the blog If you'd like to suggest a Montana blog for us to add to the blogroll, please contact us

How do I join the online discussion and community?

Anyone can comment and participate in the conversation Simply click on the link next to "Comment" below a blog entry to share your thoughts and ideas

How can I post a comment?

It's easy At the end of each blog entry is a link next to the word "Comment" that shows the number of comments made to a particular blog post. When you click on this link, you can see any comments that other readers have made To add your own comment, use the form at the bottom to fill in your name, email, and comment. Then click on "Post Comment" at the very bottom

Can I write anything I want?

We encourage you to stay on topic, but we do not edit comments with which we disagree However, Montanans for Tester reserves the right to delete comments that are rude, derogatory, discriminatory, libelous or offensive Please be polite this is your space to talk about the future of Montana

Posted by **Guest Writer** on Aug 28, 2005 at 10:04 am
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

1 Comment »

1 My husband and I own a small floor covering store in Lewistown We have a child that is 11 that has had Juvenile Diabetes for 9 years We have been fortunate to have found Blue Cross Blue Shield to cover my family as a small group However, we are drowning in premiums! We have a $3,000 00 deductible and the policy covers 50/50 Our premium is currenlty $811 00 per month We have just received a renewal notice that the rate is being increased to $956 00 per month

Mr Burns, having a child with a health impairment is very emotionally and financially draining To have every earned cent have to spent on just his medical care and health insurance premiums leaves us feeling somewhat abandoned by our government officials Health care reform has been talked about in this country for years and years But, it feels like no progress is being made Please help my family and others in our situation by rattling the cage on health care reform Let's get something started!

Thank you for your concern!

Comment by Vera Benson January 6, 2006 @ 11:01 am

TrackBack URI

Leave a comment

Your email address will not be displayed in your comments For information on the commenting policy of TesterTime, please visit the Blog FAQ

Name (required)

E-mail (required)

URI

Enter your comments below

Post Comment

Paid for and authorized by Montanans for Tester, P O Box 1248, Big Sandy, MT 59520

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      <title>by: Joan Hardee</title>
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      <description>Thanks for being on track with the importance of sunshine and much more complete and thorough disclosure, especially for all lobbyists but I like the posting on your door! Yes, we must stop the pork of anonymous earmarking!</description>
      <content:encoded>
        <![CDATA[ <p>Thanks for being on track with the importance of sunshine and much more complete and thorough disclosure, especially for all lobbyists but I like the posting on your door!<br /> Yes, we must stop the pork of anonymous earmarking! </p> ]]>
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      <pubDate>Fri, 20 Jan 2006 03:01:07 +0000</pubDate>
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      <description>John, You're on the right track. The campaign is all about getting rid of the current culture of corruption in Washington. If you want an active campaign, then ask your constituents for their comments, take their comments seriously, respond to each comment, and spend most of your time listening to your constituents and very little time issuing vacuous meaningless political comments meant to please everyone and offend no-one.</description>
      <content:encoded>
        <![CDATA[ <p>John,<br /> You&#8217;re on the right track. The campaign is all about getting rid of the current culture of corruption in Washington. If you want an active campaign, then ask your constituents for their comments, take their comments seriously, respond to each comment, and spend most of your time listening to your constituents and very little time issuing vacuous meaningless political comments meant to please everyone and offend no-one. </p> ]]>
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      <link>http://testertime.com/?p=66#comment-95</link>
      <pubDate>Thu, 19 Jan 2006 21:47:04 +0000</pubDate>
      <guid>http://testertime.com/?p=66#comment-95</guid>
      <description>Andy, Great to see you name here. I am glad that you are working on this campaign. I am also glad to see this post, it is very clearly written from the perspective of someone outside of Washington. This pledge in particular seems like a tall order: <blockquote> "I'll shut my door to former members and staff who try to cash in on their connections. </blockquote> I would venture a guess that if Jon holds this office someday and stands by his pledge, that he would be the only person of 535 senators and representatives that pulls it off. The power of relationships is strong and the culture in Washington does not promote a pledge like this. Good luck.</description>
      <content:encoded>
        <![CDATA[ <p>Andy,<br /> Great to see you name here. I am glad that you are working on this campaign. I am also glad to see this post. It is very clearly written from the perspective of someone outside of Washington. This pledge in particular seems like a tall order:<br /> <blockquote> <p> "I shut my door to former members and staff who try to cash in on their connections&#8230; </p> </blockquote> <p> I would venture a guess that if Jon holds this office someday and stands by his pledge, that he would be the only person of 535 senators and representatives that pulls it off. The power of relationships is strong and the culture in Washington does not promote a pledge like this. Good luck. </p> ]]>
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      <pubDate>Thu, 19 Jan 2006 20:57:20 +0000</pubDate>
      <guid>http://testertime.com/?p=66#comment-94</guid>
      <description>Excellent. Now how to get this information out to voters? Also, have you considered coupling this with an empowering call to Montanans? The way to take back government from crooked lobbyists and big-money special interests is for lots of regular folks to kick in a few bucks each. "What's an honest Senator worth to you?"</description>
      <content:encoded>
        <![CDATA[ <p>Excellent. Now how to get this information out to voters? Also, have you considered coupling this with an empowering call to Montanans? The way to take back government from crooked lobbyists and big-money special interests is for lots of regular folks to kick in a few bucks each. &#8220;What&#8217;s an honest Senator worth to you?&#8221; </p> ]]>
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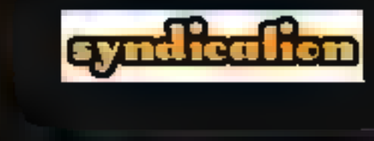
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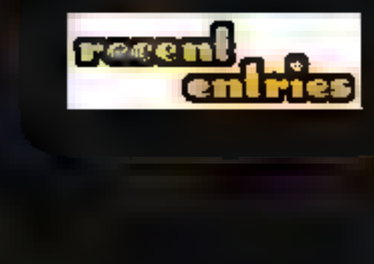
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Article **Merry Christmas!** Will Be Send To Your Friend

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Merry Christmas!

I'm sure most of you are finishing your traveling or (like me) your last minute shopping and wrapping. If you've got a couple minutes, though, consider reading Jon's take on the recent successful special session.

And enjoy the holidays!

Posted by **Guest Writer** on Dec. 22, 2005 at 12:16 pm
Comments Grow the Campaign – Forward This to a Friend

No Comments »

No comments yet.

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Over 60% of the Way There

We've now raised over 60% of fundraising goal for December with over $6,100 coming in online

Help finish the job!

Posted by **Guest Writer** on Dec 19, 2005 at 10:54 am
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

No Comments »

No comments yet.

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Article **Over 60% of the Way There** Will Be Send To Your Friend

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Tester: Burns Should Vote to Extend Medicare Drug Benefit Sign Up

[Jon released the following Press Release earlier today.]

Tester: Burns Should Vote to Extend Medicare Drug Benefit Sign Up

Senate Candidate Would Offer Montana Reforms in U.S. Senate

February 3, 2006

"Unfortunately, last night, Conrad Burns pulled the rug out from under Montana seniors by voting against extending enrollment in the new federal drug benefit.

"Surveys show that a majority of seniors don't understand the new federal drug benefit. With less than 10 percent of Montana seniors signed on to the new plan, it's clear that people simply need more time to enroll in the new federal program

"I urge Senator Burns to reconsider his actions and to support extending the enrollment period

"Penalizing thoughtful seniors for carefully considering their health care options isn't fair and shows Conrad Burns is out of touch with Montana

"Last year in the Montana Legislature, I sponsored and passed a bipartisan bill to provide real prescription drug relief, cover low-income seniors, and negotiate lower drug prices for Montana senior citizens. Here at home, we're working hard to promote that program so everyone can afford the drugs they need to stay healthy

"Conrad Burns' vote against extending the federal enrollment deadline does a disservice to the work we're doing here in Montana, and forces seniors to make snap decisions about their health or face penalties and higher premium costs

"I'm serious about making health care more affordable and cutting the federal deficit. In the U.S. Senate, I'll work to bring the benefit package we delivered to Montanans to the whole country. It's simple - negotiating for lower prescription drug prices saves tax dollars and helps seniors."

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Feb. 03, 2006 at 6:02 pm
Comments Grow the Campaign - Forward This to a Friend

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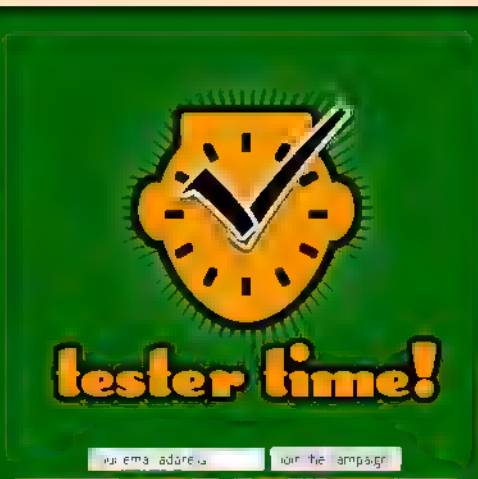

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LA Times: Burns in Trouble

It's becoming more clear every day that Conrad Burns has been around the "stockyards" in D.C. so long that only the folks back home can smell the "you-know-what."

Janet Hook of the LA Times recently paid a visit to Montana to talk to Montanans about this year's U.S. Senate race. What she found points to "signs of trouble for the GOP." Voters are fed up with Conrad Burns' dealings with disgraced lobbyist Jack Abramoff, and they're not afraid to say it:

> "These people need to pay more attention to the money they are taking," said Bill Curry, a brick mason from Belgrade, a town northwest of Bozeman. **"It's corrupt. I don't like it. It's not good."**

Earlier in the story, a former supporter of Conrad Burns explains why he's not with the Senator this year in November:

> Jack Bolender, a retiree who voted for three-term Sen. Conrad Burns because the Republican delivered mounds of federal aid to Montana, said he was deserting the incumbent in the state's November election. **Allegations that Burns was cozy with Jack Abramoff, the lobbyist central to a wide-ranging corruption scandal in Washington, have Bolender steamed.**
>
> "I appreciate what [Burns] brought to the state, but at what cost?" Bolender said one cold afternoon outside Murdoch's. "We seem to be selling out to the special interests."

It's funny that the only retort Republicans can put together throughout the article is to accuse Democrats of mudslinging. Unfortunately for them, Democrats like Jon Tester have been clear on the issues, promising to fight and win for Montana on issues like health care, energy, and jobs.

This story should be news to Burns that it's tough to call Democratic ads about ethics dirty when you're stuck in a muddy scandal with Jack Abramoff. Montana voters are smarter than that.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Feb. 20, 2006 at 2:16 pm
Comments: Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

1 Comment »

1. I find it amusing that they used Burns talking at a Republican fundraiser to answer the charges. I think it's a good sign that the best he can come up with is that Democracts have "no ideas," which is a great line from 1994 "Contract with America" congressional races.

Comment by Jason — February 20, 2006 @ 3:10 pm

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It's Time for Conrad Burns to Resign

Here in Montana, honesty matters. It's my firm belief that if you can't keep your word to the people, you can't keep your office.

That's why I called for Conrad Burns to resign from the U.S. Senate today.

From the beginning, his dealings with Jack Abramoff haven't passed the smell test. It smells like a barnyard that needs a clean up.

I think it's time to clean up Washington, D.C., and we should start with Conrad Burns.

Everything we know about Conrad Burns' dealings with Jack Abramoff fly in the face of his public statements on the matter. As I travel the state talking about my vision for Montana and America Republicans and Democrats alike think Conrad just isn't telling the truth.

And today's news was the last straw.

As you probably already know, Abramoff is quoted in the April issue of Vanity Fair, saying,

> "Every appropriation we wanted [from Burns's committee] we got. Our staffs were as close as they could be. They practically used Signatures as their cafeteria. I mean, it's a little difficult for him to run from that record."

The trouble is, Montanans can't run from Conrad's record either. The worst thing about Conrad Burns' behavior is that while Jack Abramoff got everything he wanted, average Montanans had to do without what we need: affordable health care, a sensible plan for energy independence, and a government in Washington we can trust.

That's why I'm running for the United States Senate, and that's why I think it's time that Conrad Burns faces the music and steps down from his office.

If you think it's time to break up Washington's game of pay to play politics, sign up for free email updates from the campaign. Our efforts are fueled by ideas and the contributions of regular people like you. If you're able, visit our ActBlue page today and make a contribution to the campaign.

Thank you for all that you do,

Jon Tester

Posted by **Jon Tester** on Mar. 08, 2006 at 6:35 pm
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[99 Days to Victory]

I believe Democrats are poised to make real gains in November. According to one survey, Conrad Burns is the least popular senator in the nation.

Across the country, Democrats are ahead of Republicans in generic polls. We're beating the Republicans at recruitment. And the field appears to be in our favor.

But to truly make gains in the House and Senate, I believe we'll need candidates willing to show true leadership. Leaders who will make tough decisions and stand up for what we believe in. Leaders who will work to solve problems and get things done... for Montana and for all of America.
[(more...)]

Posted by **Jon Tester** on Feb. 27, 2006 at 9:16 am
Comments: 3 Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

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Jon's interview at MyDD

Jon's interview with Jonathan Singer is up at MyDD.

Jon and Jonathan had the opportunity to cover a range of topics, from farm subsidies and the port deal to energy and ethics.

Jon's response on the role of the progressive bloggosphere is especially meaningful. Jon is a career farmer; he lives Montana everyday. This campaign is about leadership that can bring values Jon and other everyday Montanans know to the U.S. Senate.

> "I am... and I don't classify this as being a knock. I'm an average guy. I've got two kids, a wife. My parents helped teach me the business I'm in. And I'm not rich. I don't have a ton of money. I know what it's like to balance the checkbook. I know what it's like to struggle to pay bills at the end of the month. I've done all those things, and I continue to do all of those things even right now as we speak. Finances have always been something that we have struggled with, like most American families have, to buy a home, buy a new car or just pay the insurance bill.
>
> "So I'm going to take those kind of qualities to Washington, DC, and I think a lot of people in the blogosphere are in the same boat. They're regular people. They're not rich. They work for the dollars they get, and they work hard for them. If they want someone back in Washington, DC who's going to represent everybody, and not fall into this pay-to-play mentality, just represent the upper crust, then I'm their guy."

Take a look at the interview. It's worth a read.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Feb. 27, 2006 at 8:02 am
Comments: 1 Comment | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

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Tester Pushes for Lower Freight Rates

Yesterday, Jon met with Doug Buttrey, chair of the Surface Transportation Board, to talk about freight rates and rail competition in Montana. Burlington Northern Santa Fe controls key rail lines across Montana, including a branch line serving Jon's hometown, Big Sandy.

The trouble is, that line hasn't served anyone since 2003, when BNSF mothballed the line, citing financial concerns.

Jon has spoken out on these issues in the past, calling for more competition and fair rates for Montana farmers. Tester's meeting with Buttrey was a productive step in resolving competition and rate issues for agricultural producers in rural Montana.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Feb. 23, 2006 at 7:01 pm
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

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LA Times: Burns in Trouble

It's becoming more clear every day that Conrad Burns has been around the "stockyards" in D.C. so long that only the folks back home can smell the "you-know-what."

Janet Hook of the LA Times recently paid a visit to Montana to talk to Montanans about this year's U.S. Senate race. What she found points to "signs of trouble for the GOP." Voters are fed up with Conrad Burns' dealings with disgraced lobbyist Jack Abramoff, and they're not afraid to say it:

> "These people need to pay more attention to the money they are taking," said Bill Curry, a brick mason from Belgrade, a town northwest of Bozeman. **"It's corrupt. I don't like it. It's not good."**

Earlier in the story, a former supporter of Conrad Burns explains why he's not with the Senator this year in November:

> Jack Bolender, a retiree who voted for three-term Sen. Conrad Burns because the Republican delivered mounds of federal aid to Montana, said he was deserting the incumbent in the state's November election. **Allegations that Burns was cozy with Jack Abramoff, the lobbyist central to a wide-ranging corruption scandal in Washington, have Bolender steamed.**
>
> "I appreciate what [Burns] brought to the state, but at what cost?" Bolender said one cold afternoon outside Murdoch's. "We seem to be selling out to the special interests."

It's funny that the only retort Republicans can put together throughout the article is to accuse Democrats of mudslinging. Unfortunately for them, Democrats like Jon Tester have been clear on the issues, promising to fight and win for Montana on issues like health care, energy, and jobs.

This story should be news to Burns that it's tough to call Democratic ads about ethics dirty when you're stuck in a muddy scandal with Jack Abramoff. Montana voters are smarter than that.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Feb. 20, 2006 at 2:16 pm
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Jon Tester Visits Missoula

Jon was in Missoula last week for campaign events and the Mens and Womens Cat-Griz basketball games. While he was in town, he had a chance to stop in and chat with local media. If you're in Missoula, listen for Jon's interviews with local radio in the coming weeks.

Here's Jon in the studio, ready to hit the airwaves:

And here's a shot of Montana House Democratic Leader Dave Wanzenried and Jon Tester at a Missoula event:

Be sure to check back here at Tester Time for more in the coming weeks. We'll be bringing updates and photos as Jon visits communities across Montana on his campaign to bring real change to the U.S. Senate.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Feb. 18, 2006 at 4:55 pm
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

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Tester: Don't Fence Me in

The Helena Independent Record broke a story this morning on Conrad Burns' planned fundraiser at the Yellowstone Club, an exclusive community near Big Sky.

From the article:

> The Yellowstone Club is a private ski and golf club surrounded by a high-end subdivision. Lifetime admission to the club is $250,000, which also includes the right to build a home there, according to a Feb. 8 article in London's The Evening Standard. Homes, which cost between $2 million to $20 million, can be sold only to other club members, the article reported.

It continues...

> Burns' Democratic front-runner challengers, State Auditor John Morrison and state Senate President Jon Tester, of Big Sandy, both said they'd never had a fundraiser at the at the Yellowstone Club.
>
> Tester said he'd never been there or to any gated community.
>
> "Does that apply to livestock?" he said. "I've been in lots of those."

As you can see, the Yellowstone Club delivers much more than a plain old gated community, most notably, the exclusive ski area and golf course. Evidently, these perks also include access to U.S. Senator Conrad Burns at **Burns Winterfest '06**.

With a name like that, it sounds like Senator Burns might be giving this year's winter games in **Torino** a run for their money.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Feb. 10, 2006 at 3:27 pm
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

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Electric City Office Energizes Campaign

Our Great Falls headquarters is now up and running, and off to a strong start after one week on the ground. We're located at 4307 North Star Boulevard, on the Northeast side of town.

I'm glad to be back in Great Falls after working here last cycle for the Montana Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee. It's a great community with a strong Democratic party organization and an outstanding legislative delegation.

The Great Falls Tribune reported on the office opening today, unfortunately, the article is not available on the Trib's website. Here's a clip from today's story:

> "Great Falls is a prime location for the campaign headquarters," Tester said, in a news release. "It's a top-notch site as a geographic, economic, and transportation center for Central Montana."

Stay tuned for details about an open house at the Great Falls office in the near future.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Feb. 10, 2006 at 12:34 pm
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

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Intelligent Discontent on Foreign Policy

Intelligent Discontent published a series of responses to foreign policy questions from Jon Tester earlier this week. All Democrats vying for the party's nomination in the June 6 Primary Election were invited to respond. Jon Tester and Paul Richards returned responses to the following questions:

Do you categorically oppose the use of torture by the American military and intelligence officers?

Has the United States done enough to help alleviate African poverty?

Do you support a specific timetable for withdrawal from Iraq? What specific steps do you believe the United States should take to ensure victory in Iraq?

Do you support the Central American Free Trade Agreement? Why?

Don and his crew at Intelligent Discontent put together an interesting and diverse panel of issues for discussion. It's nice to see candidates discuss foreign policy issues in an open forum. The importance of these issues is magnified in a race for the U.S. Senate, where our relationship with the world is debated and often codified in treaties and international law.

Now more than ever, we need a U.S. Senator who understands and will fight for Montanans in foreign affairs. Join the campaign and sign up to volunteer today!

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Feb. 10, 2006 at 11:16 am
Comments: 1 Comment | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

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Take a look at the interview. It's worth a read

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Feb 27, 2006 at 8:02 am
Comments Grow the Campaign – Forward This to a Friend

1 Comment »

1 [ ] Who do you want representing you? This post says it all [.]

Pingback by The View From The Left » Blog Archive » Whom Represents You? March 1, 2006 @ 10:12 pm

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Across the country, Democrats are ahead of Republicans in generic polls. We're beating the Republicans at recruitment. And the field appears to be in our favor.

But to truly make gains in the House and Senate, I believe we'll need candidates willing to show true leadership. Leaders who will make tough decisions and stand up for what we believe in. Leaders who will work to solve problems and get things done—for Montana and for all of America.

Returning a Democratic majority to the House or Senate would be an incredible victory in 2006, and an important step in restoring balance to our government... the people's government.

But this election isn't just about numbers. It's about the direction we want our country to go. And it's about the direction we want our party to go.

The question before us this primary season is this: what kind of Democrats do we want to send to Washington next January?

Do we want Democrats who will bow down to the special interests that have corrupted our democratic process? Or do we want Democrats who will stand up to them and clean the halls of congress of crooks and influence peddlers?

Do we want Democrats who will continue to give the President a blank check for his misguided war in Iraq? Or do we want Democrats who will support our troops and lay out a plan to bring them home?

Do we want Democrats who will only make noise when the price of energy goes up? Or do we want Democrats who will fight every day for a comprehensive energy policy that cuts our addiction to foreign oil?

Do we want Democrats who will do nothing while the President's prescription drug plan leaves hundreds of thousands of our seniors without the medicine they need? Or Democrats who will stand up and fight for our seniors?

Do we want Democrats who will accept the President's spying program? Or Democrats who will trust in the wisdom of our forefathers and the Constitution and ensure that we protect our right against unreasonable searches and seizures?

Do we want Democrats who will fight to keep public lands in public hands?

As a United States Senator from Montana, I will fight for the values and ideals we share. But winning will require all of us to take part... not just in the race in Montana, but in critical races all across the country.

Because rebuilding Congress after more than a decade of Republican control and Republican corruption will require more than just a change in numbers... it will require changing the face of Washington.

We can decide here and now that this election is going to be an earthquake that shakes the foundation of insider Washington.

We can do that by sending new blood, and by sending candidates who are willing to fight and win for hardworking Americans.

If you want an insider politician, you don't want me. But if you want to move Washington, D.C. in a new direction, then I ask you to stand with me. Do everything you can to help us win. Join our campaign. Make a contribution. Ask your friends in Montana to get involved.

You can contribute via Act Blue here:

http://www.actblue.com/list/netrootscandidates

Or you can sign up for our campaign here:

http://www.testerforsenate.com/join/

Over the past few weeks, we've been dedicated to raising the money and putting together the field operation we need to win. As some of you know, we had a soft fourth quarter. In December, I led the Montana Senate through a special session to fund our schools. I don't offer that as an excuse. I simply wasn't willing to lose sight of the job I was elected to do as President of the Montana Senate to benefit my campaign.

But now we're focused. We've got a great staff. We've opened a new headquarters and we're fundraising and building the volunteer network needed to win.

And today we're less than 100 days from the Primary Election in Montana, on June 6th. 100 days to make our case, to make our stand, and to start a process that will change the way Washington works.

I hope that I can count on you in this important fight.

Jon Tester

Posted by **Jon Tester** on Feb. 27, 2006 at 9:16 am
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3 Comments »

1. March 2, 2006

   Hello Jon,

   Bob Herbert has an excellent column in today's New York Times online on the many bungles of Conrad Burns. "If there were a trapdoor that was somehow rigged to open beneath the U.S. senators we really don't need, Conrad Burns of Montana would surely fall right through it."

   It would be really funny if he wasn't our senator.

   Read the whole thing here:
   http://select.nytimes.com/2006/03/02/opinion/02herbert.html?hp

   Ed in Montana

   Comment by Ed Madej — March 2, 2006 @ 7:09 am

2. The first time I testified before one of Jon's committees at the Montana legislature, I looked around the table and formed a quick opinion of who was a "blockhead" or "the real thing". I sure pegged Jon wrong! He's very personable, straightforward and impressive. I was very pleased to see him running for the Senate and is the rare candidate you feel you can support without reservation. I'm pleased to do that; go get 'em Jon!

   (My Two Cents Worth.) I'd like to see candidates restrict their fundraising to their constituents. In this case "Montana Residents" rather than just claiming U.S. citizenship. We should support and elect "our own" enough of these Washington, D.C. corporate and camouflaged PAC fundraisers.
   (No response required, you're going to be a busy man.)

   Comment by Mark Browning — March 3, 2006 @ 8:42 am

3. Dear John, I want answers, not questions. What will YOU do, how will YOU change the face & climate of this nation & the great state of Montana? Where do you want the Democratic party to go, where do you want this country to go etc. This is what people want to see. This is what I want to see.

   Comment by Brooke — March 4, 2006 @ 3:19 pm

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Cafeteria Plan

From the Hotline

> Vanity Fair's David Margolick has interviewed Jack Abramoff, and everything -- everything -- is on the table.
>
> We'll post excerpts throughout the morning, but here's what the lobbyist says about Sen. Conrad Burns: "Every appropriation we wanted [from Burns's committee] we got. Our staffs were as close as they could be. They practically used Signatures as their cafeteria. I mean, it's a little difficult for him to run from that record."

Signatures is an upscale restaurant once owned by disgraced lobbyist Jack Abramoff

Funny story, now that Jack has shut down the staff cafeteria line at Signatures, the restaurant is taking suggestions for a new name. Keep in mind, this isn't just a hot dog stand or a pork chop sandwich shop -- we're talking about an all you can eat pork buffet.

Got any ideas?

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Mar. 08, 2006 at 4:41 pm
Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

No Comments »

No comments yet.

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Mansfield Metcalf Weekend

Montana Democrats gathered in Helena this weekend for the 28th Annual Mansfield Metcalf Dinner, remembering two great U S Senators from Montana Democrats attended meetings, trainings and social events over the weekend, gearing up to defeat Conrad Burns and win other races across the state in November

The legacy of Lee Metcalf and Mike Mansfield is a legacy of ensuring our government is open to serve everyone Both men truly held their office in the public trust fighting each day to help people in need Senator Max Baucus carries these values for Montanans today in the Senate, working for Montanans from all walks of life

Unfortunately, Montana's Junior Senator Conrad Burns closed the door on these values long ago, choosing to serve big money lobbyists in Washington D C instead of his constituents here at home

It's time to end the pay to play game in Washington D C and Jon Tester is the one who can do it In a video presented to dinner attendees, Jon shared his vision and values, stating,

> "Growing up on a farm, I learned to work hard, have faith, love our country and support family and community Those are lessons we all teach our children, and it's a message Montana can teach America "

Jon's video really pumped up the crowd in the ballroom Applause interrupted the speech a number of times and Jon heard many positive comments afterword Tester closed strong, stating,

> "I may not look like the rest of the Senate, but maybe it's time that the rest of the Senate looked a little more like Montana "

Check back soon for an update, we hope to post a copy of Jon's video here on TesterTime and on the campaign website in the near future

The energy for Jon's campaign spilled outside the Helena Civic Center to a honk and wave across the street Thanks go out to our campaign volunteers and Students for Tester for braving the cold to spread the word about Jon's campaign

Before the dinner and program, Jon had the opportunity to chat with Laura Flanders of Air America Radio about his campaign Their interview is available to subscribers at Air America Premium

And, Governor Schweitzer and Jag stopped by to talk issues with Laura near the tail end of Jon's interview

Overall, it was a very encouraging weekend for the campaign Jon met Democrats from every corner of the state and talked about important issues to bring back to Washington, D C

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Mar 13, 2006 at 5 15 pm
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

2 Comments »

1 Dear Senator Tester,

I first visited Montana last summer for a mere 8 days as part of a drive from New Jersey to California and back to recover from an amazing stressful 2.5 years dealing with parental illnesses

I need not tell you why I fell in love with the beauty of Montana, for it is indeed beautiful From Ekalaka to Polebridge, Billings to Zortman, along US 2 and down to Ft. Benton, I found myself hooked (although I will admit to an especial love for Glacier country and the North Fork area)

I was also impressed by the welcome the people of Montana gave this Jersey boy Consistently and throughout the state, I felt at home

During my stay, I got a sense of the place And it is, as you know, a fine place I hardly need to say that to you But also a sense of the people

And so I salute your campaign, and I make, tonight, my second donation to you I wish you well, and hope that, when I am in Montana again this summer we will get the opportunity to meet

William Cooper

Comment by William Cooper March 13, 2006 @ 7:00 pm

2 What a fun weekend!!! Jon really pumped up the crowd and it was great to see so many Tester supporters GO, fight and win

Comment by Jess March 14, 2006 @ 11:39 am

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Jon's Mansfield Metcalf Message

As promised, Jon's Mansfield Metcalf speech is now available online. Check out Google Video for the great message Jon delivered to Montana Democrats on Saturday.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Mar. 15, 2006 at 10:51 am
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

1 Comment »

1. Tester's video was the best of the entire dinner. Great job Jon and staff.

   Comment by Jess — March 20, 2006 @ 10:03 am

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The Right Prescription for Montana

The Great Falls Tribune's Gwen Florio wrote a quick piece on Jon's promotional item at the Mansfield-Metcalf dinner

From the article

> Tables featured prescription-style bottles of M&Ms from U.S. Senate candidate Jon Tester, who backed a prescription drug bill in the 2005 session. Tester also put an item in the silent auction — a campaign poster from the Pearl Jam fundraiser he held last summer, signed by the members of the band.

Jon was the chief sponsor of the bill that created the Big Sky Rx program at the 2005 Montana Legislature. This Gazette op-ed has more information about the program and other Democratic victories on health care at the 2005 session.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Mar. 20, 2006 at 11:16 am
Comments: Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

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Tester Officially Files for U.S. Senate

Yesterday, Jon Tester officially filed for U S Senate, calling for an end to Conrad Burns' "reign of corruption."

Jon submitted the necessary paperwork and spoke with reporters about the race. More details about the filing are available in press coverage of the event.

Montana's News Station

NewWest

Billings Gazette

Great Falls Tribune

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Mar 22, 2006 at 10:20 am
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

No Comments »

No comments yet.

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Mailbag

Today's Helena IR features a letter to the editor from Neal Ullman. From the letter:

> As a farmer, former teacher, and president of the Montana Senate, Jon is one of few people who wake up everyday wondering what they can do better to help their family, community, and state. Jon's dedication to his family and state are the values we need representing us in Washington. As scandal after scandal boils out of Washington, it's more and more clear that we need a fresh perspective to end the petty bickering.

To write your own letter to the editor, you can consult the Montana Democratic Party website for newspaper contact information and formatting suggestions.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Mar 22, 2006 at 6:31 pm
Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

No Comments »

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Energizing the Netroots

The netroots have been an important part of the Tester campaign from the beginning Since Jon's filing, blogs have highlighted the race, responding to Jon's call for real representation in Washington, D C

Bob Brigham at MyDD recently wrote about the race calling it "the perfect opportunity" for the netroots to display their strength His post highlights Jon's record of accomplishment and the unique opportunity we have here in Montana to change the face of Washington, D C

Swing by MyDD for the whole story

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Mar 23, 2006 at 11 43 am
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

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U of M Crowd Welcomes Tester

Jon was in Missoula last night for a fundraiser and a meeting with students at the University of Montana. New West has the story. Jon spoke with a large, enthusiastic crowd for over an hour.

And surveys still say Conrad Burns is still the most unpopular senator in the country. New Survey USA numbers put Burns at 38%. Conrad Burns has the lowest approval rating and the lowest net approval rating in the country. Watch the numbers take a nosedive at Survey USA's website.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Mar. 24, 2006 at 1:14 pm
Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

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Equal Health Care for All Montanans

Women deserve the right to full health care coverage, just like men

When I saw an opportunity to bring equality and fairness to women, I didn't sit back and wait - I took action. Every family should have the basic right to make decisions about their future, and every woman should have access to the prescriptions she needs It's that simple

NARAL Pro Choice Montana called my request "a courageous stand "

Here's what happened Last November, I asked Montana Attorney General Mike McGrath to evaluate and render an opinion on insurance coverage for contraception, especially when those plans cover Viagra and other prescriptions for men

Attorney General McGrath today agreed, saying that equality for women matters

> "As with Title VII, Montana case law demonstrates that because pregnancy is unique to women, differential treatment related to pregnancy and related medical conditions such as gynecological visits, is discrimination on the basis of sex, and is prohibited "

[Click here to read the the press release.]
[Click here to read the whole Attorney General's opinion.]

Equality also begins with respect and open, accountable government When politicians cut back room deals and close out the public interest, everyone on the outside loses We've all heard the stories about Conrad Burns' dealings with lobbyists like Jack Abramoff closing the door to Montanans in favor of the special interests

You and I both know that Burns is no friend when it comes to women's issues.

That's why I'm running for the U S Senate–to represent the needs of all Montanans, not the special interests and corporate lobbyists

That's the kind of leadership I will bring to Washington fighting and winning on the issues that matter most to us as Montanans

I have a proven record of taking action for Montanans supporting families, delivering prescription drugs for seniors, a better funding plan for our schools, a comprehensive energy strategy to cut our addiction to foreign oil, and economic incentives to create jobs in every corner of Montana

Can I count on you to help me fight to make a difference for women and families all across this nation? Today, we need your help to hit our fundraising target before the March 31 deadline I need you to volunteer and a make a contribution of $50, $100, $250 or whatever you can today

http://www.testerforsenate.com/contribute/

Together we can send Conrad Burns home and restore real family values in Washington

Thank you for all that you do,

Jon Tester

Posted by **Jon Tester** on Mar 28, 2006 at 3 28 pm
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

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Newsweek: Burns "Under Scrutiny"

Newsweek features an article on the Abramoff investigations following DeLay's decision to not seek re-election this fall. Their sources indicate the fallout is spreading - and Conrad Burns is at the top of the list.

> But after DeLay, Burns may be the ripest target for Democrats, who dream of winning six seats and regaining the Senate. Burns took more money from Abramoff and his clients than any other member of Congress - nearly $150,000, according to Federal Election Commission records. A lawyer familiar with the investigation, who declined to be named discussing an ongoing case, confirms that Burns is under scrutiny for his connections to Abramoff - in particular, whether he and his staff promoted legislation to help Abramoff's clients in exchange for campaign contributions or gifts.

And Republicans are concerned. They've thrown their weight behind Burns, despite a challenge in the primary from State Senate Minority Leader Bob Keenan. Republican Chair Chuck Denowh admits the Abramoff affair has gained traction, hurting Senator Burns' character with voters.

> "One of his characteristics was his trustworthiness and integrity," says Chuck Denowh, executive director of the Montana Republican Party. The Abramoff chatter "got people questioning that."

Interesting that Denowh uses past tense in describing Burns' trustworthiness and integrity.

Ready for a Senator you can trust? Join the campaign today.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Apr 10, 2006 at 3:24 pm
Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

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Springtime on the Hi Line

When Jon isn't talking to voters or in the office working on the campaign, he takes care of his day job running the family farm outside of Big Sandy, MT

Yesterday Jon was hard at work loading grain and lentils into the semi to go to the cleaner

To load up the truck, Jon shovels the grain from the bin to the auger

The auger moves Jon's product from the bin to the semi. In this shot, Jon is loading lentils into the truck.

Once the truck is loaded, Jon takes the product to be cleaned. Yesterday he drove this load to Havre, MT

You'll notice that it's pretty gray outside in these shots. It's a perfect time for rain as Jon is looking to plant his crops in the coming weeks. We'll keep you posted as Jon plants on the farm and works with the grassroots on the campaign trail

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Apr 06, 2006 at 10:17 am
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

1 Comment »

1. Please, please tell me the campaign is getting some great "springtime in Montana" video footage (well, maybe wait for a sunny day) for the ad to define Jon to those who don't know him

   Comment by Lindabee in mt — April 6, 2006 @ 1:18 pm

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Ravalli Democrats Welcome Tester

Jon was the keynote speaker at the Jefferson Jackson dinner in Hamilton this weekend In a mostly rural county that has long been considered a Republican stronghold, 150 people showed up to hear Jon and voice their support for Montana Democrats

Earlier in the day Jon met with a smaller group of Bitterroot valley residents in a town hall meeting to answer questions about issues important to them Jon spoke to the group about farming, ranching, and the future of Montana The group was most concerned about the future of family farm agriculture, energy independence, the cost of the war in Iraq, and economic development in Montana

The Ravalli Republic has the story on the town hall meeting on their website

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Apr 10, 2006 at 8.36 pm
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

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Article **Newsweek: Burns "Under Scrutiny"** Will Be Send To Your Friend

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Article **Ravalli Democrats Welcome Tester** Will Be Send To Your Friend

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This week, Jon is working the fields getting the ground ready for seeding They had some rain Wednesday night, so Jon got in some calls to supporters this morning before starting work. If the weather holds out, Jon and Sharla plan to begin planting tomorrow

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Apr 13, 2006 at 7 33 pm
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

5 Comments »

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3. Hi Jon Yes,that's Big Sandy alright kinda' flat I lived in Malta for 12 years and drove through there many a time Lots of Hungarian partrige in your area though Nice meeting you during the St. Pat parade here in Butte Best of luck.

   Comment by Jack Jones April 14, 2006 @ 7.52 pm

4. Wisconsin is looking for some Progressive help from Montana, so get the vote out. Having known Jon for many years and having swapped many farming stories, I doubt you could do any better He knows life is not easy, he's worked for everything he has, just like most people do Trouble is, most people are not represented in DC, but we should be

   Jim Goodman
   Wonewoc WI

   Comment by Jim Goodman April 14, 2006 @ 8.43 pm

5. Did you guys see that Time magazine named Burns one of America's 5 worst senators?

   Comment by Billy Bob Clinton April 16, 2006 @ 9:07 pm

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A New Day in Montana

by Bob Ream

[Editor's Note: Former Montana Democratic Party Chair Bob Ream sent the following message to members of the campaign today. We're proud to have the support of Bob, who is a great Democrat and a great Montanan.]

Since my retirement after eight years as Chair of the Montana Democratic Party, I've managed to stay quite busy doing "deferred maintenance" at home and taking a much needed vacation with my family

Now it's time for me to get back into politics and participate in a way that I haven't been able to in years by getting involved in a primary

I spent 16 years in the Montana House and **I am dedicated to helping Jon Tester win both the primary and the general election.**

Jon Tester is my good friend and **he is the only Democrat who can beat Conrad Burns.** Tester is a farmer from north central Montana who appeals to rural and urban Montana voters Tester knows what it's like to wake up at 4.30 a m and work out in the fields The dirt on his cowboy boots is real He's a third generation Montana farmer who will take Montanan's needs and issues to Washington without the help of Jack Abramoff or other lobbyists

But it will take all of us participating in some way to beat Conrad Burns and his special interest money If you can afford to do so, **please join me in making a financial contribution to the Tester campaign today.** Tomorrow is the final day of the fundraising quarter Even a small amount can go a long way

http://www.testerforsenate.com/contribute/

Jon Tester is a team player. During the last election when Montana Democrats took control of the Senate, the Montana Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee and the Party had no bigger ally than Jon Tester Jon spent the year raising money, knocking on doors and mentoring our new candidates

His hard work paid off: we picked up 6 Senate seats and 3 House seats. Because of his hard work and the respect of the other 26 Senate Democrats, Jon was elected President of the Senate In that capacity he was highly successful at working across the aisle and working with the Governor's office to get solid legislation passed

Democrats like you and I and Jon Tester went through a lot together in this last decade Together, we witnessed some of our party's worst defeats And, together, we rebuilt one of the strongest Democratic parties in the nation making it truly a **New Day in Montana**

Please join me in **sending Jon Tester a contribution**, so we can return Burns' seat to the party of Mike Mansfield

http://www.testerforsenate.com/contribute/

Thank you for working with me to elect Jon Tester to the U S Senate in 2006.

Bob Ream

Posted by **Guest Writer** on Sep 29, 2005 at 10:44 pm
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Sign the Petition. Time for a Real Energy Policy

It's long past due that we have a real energy policy in this country. Congress already passed one bill this summer, but it was largely handouts to an industry that is already reaping record profits. Now, in one of the few silver linings emerging from Hurricane Katrina, there is a growing consensus in Washington, DC that the last energy bill wasn't enough, as *The Hill* reported this morning.

Sign the Petition for a Real Energy Policy.

Unfortunately, Republican leaders are already leaning toward another round of handouts to the same oil companies experiencing record profits and coming under scrutiny both here in Montana and in Washington due to allegations of price gouging.

Here in Montana, we took a different approach last legislative session. We started moving toward a more diverse approach to energy, tapping wind energy and ethanol as a way to build long term alternatives to the same old energy sources.

Sign the Petition for a Real Energy Policy.

Our leaders in Washington, DC, should roll up their sleeves and follow suit with an energy policy that promotes alternatives to oil, conservation and efficiency as real goals to lower costs in the long term, and developing energy sources that will bring better jobs to rural America.

This is the right policy for America's economic security. And it's the right policy for America's national security.

Please, join Jon today in calling for us to take advantage of this opportunity.

Sign the Petition for a Real Energy Policy.

Also, if you want to hear about these opportunities and others, make sure you join the campaign email list — the single best source for information on this campaign.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Sep 08, 2005 at 12:51 pm
Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

1 Comment »

1. Are you kidding me? The republicans have been trying to get the democrats to the table to talk about energy policy for FIVE YEARS! How come the democrats haven't done anything in response but be obstructionists. Do they really have a plan for an energy policy? What does Jon Tester propose to fix the US energy policy? Thus far, I haven't seen Tester taking much, if any, stance on real issues. Of course we like education, of course the hurricane was bad, but what does he really want besides another 'D' vote in the Senate?

   Comment by Adam Hertz — September 14, 2005 @ 4:58 pm

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COOL Getting the Job Done

Senator Burns is wringing his hands in Washington, D C because his own party keeps shutting down efforts to get Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) implemented He even goes so far as to accuse his own party of selling out to special interests Who would have thought?

But here's the thing When it comes to COOL, Washington has a little bit to learn from Montana Frustrated with years of delay in D C , Jon Tester, Rep Bob Bergren, and Gov Brian Schweitzer passed their own COOL bill in Montana, earning a status as heroes among the Montana Cattlemen Association Republicans criticized the effort, saying it was grandstanding since the federal government would deliver

If only that were the case

But while Conrad Burns wrings his hands, Jon Tester rolls up his sleeves and gets the job done

That's the difference here in Montana

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Oct. 28, 2005 at 10:52 am
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

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Trusting Big Sandy Over Washington, D.C.

You might have seen it last week, a little article in the *National Journal*, Washington, D C 's, most insider publication, that said that any candidate seen with Big Sandy's Jeff Ament and Pearl Jam was a surefire loser in Montana

Quite frankly, I was a little ticked off But I didn't give it much thought because taking advice on winning elections from Washington, D C , can be a bit like taking a business ethics class from Jack Abramoff, the Washington lobbyist tied to Conrad Burns and under indictment for wire fraud and conspiracy

But then one of my primary opponents, John Morrison, decided that he needed to distribute this article across the state of Montana

Let me tell you this **I don't like Washington insiders telling me I can't be seen with my old friends from Big Sandy** Montanans stick together, and don't forget friends just because some D C insider thinks that friends are disposable That's not the Montana way

I grew up with Jeff Ament of Pearl Jam Jeff is a Big Sandy boy like me His father was Mayor, and gave me my first flattop haircut. I taught Jeff's sisters and brother music in school And Jeff and I used to play pickup basketball games together

Jeff has been fortunate to make a good living doing what he loves playing music Year after year he gives back to the people and youth of Montana, the state he still calls home today

I'm running for the U S Senate because I think Conrad Burns has lost touch with this state I sure won't forget my Montana values and roots and family and friends

That's a promise This Montana farmer knows what matters I'm running to represent Montanans all Montanans And, yes, even my friend from Big Sandy, Jeff Ament, can count on me too

Posted by **Jon Tester** on Oct. 10, 2005 at 2.41 pm
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

3 Comments »

1. [ ] Tester sent out an e-mail that started by saying this You might have seen it last week, a little article in the National Journal, Washington, D C 's, most insider publication, that said that any candidate seen with Big Sandy's Jeff Ament and Pearl Jam was a surefire loser in Montana [ ]

   Pingback by Left in the West » Blog Archive » Have I Mentioned That I Love This Guy — October 10, 2005 @ 2.42 pm

2. Ok Tester, you did good this time But you know I am a republican But if I could vote in Montana I would still vote for you And not just because you are family,,, well maybe sort of
   Best of luck. You better come to the next family reunion or else!!! I won't cut you any slack on the knee board next time
   Weaver

   Comment by Gary Weaver — October 22, 2005 @ 8.50 pm

3. Yahoo, for backing up your what is right! I like this guy more and more and I give the thanks to Jeff Ament for backing up his buddy Loser? Who in the world is this guy, surely not a brilliant musician Thanks for the introduction .I vote for Tester

   Comment by Kristine — November 9, 2005 @ 7.46 pm

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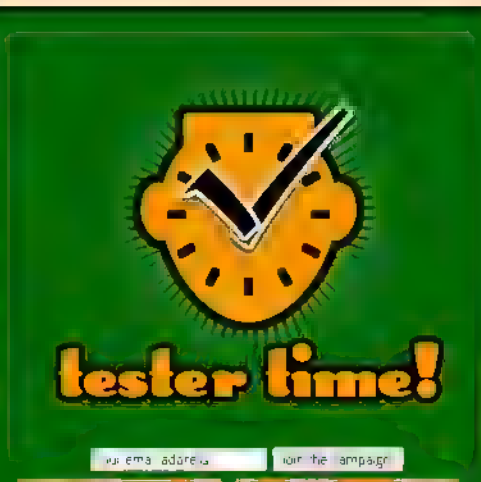

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3. Hi Jon Yes,that's Big Sandy alright kinda' flat I lived in Malta for 12 years and drove through there many a time Lots of Hungarian partrige in your area though Nice meeting you during the St. Pat parade here in Butte Best of luck.

   Comment by Jack Jones April 14, 2006 @ 7.52 pm

4. Wisconsin is looking for some Progressive help from Montana, so get the vote out. Having known Jon for many years and having swapped many farming stories, I doubt you could do any better He knows life is not easy, he's worked for everything he has, just like most people do Trouble is, most people are not represented in DC, but we should be

   Jim Goodman
   Wonewoc WI

   Comment by Jim Goodman April 14, 2006 @ 8.43 pm

5. Did you guys see that Time magazine named Burns one of America's 5 worst senators?

   Comment by Billy Bob Clinton April 16, 2006 @ 9:07 pm

6. Jon Best wishes from Belgrade! Keep fighting the good fight!

   Comment by Wacko Lib May 5, 2006 @ 10.23 pm

7. Just got a call from John sounded personal, even to this guy from New Jersey (he used my name)

   That's enough to contribute some more

   BC

   Comment by Bill Cooper May 8, 2006 @ 5.45 pm

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Tester Debates the Issues

There have been a number of vigorous debates around the state in recent weeks, and Jon has impressed the audience at all of them. Here are some excerpts from the most recent debate in Helena:

> "The audience also broke into clapping once when Tester's wife Sharla stood up, holding their 21 month old granddaughter, Kilikina.
>
> 'That's my grand-daughter,' Tester said. 'That's why I'm running for the U.S. Senate.'"
> Jennifer McKee, Lee State Bureau

> "Democratic Senate hopeful Jon Tester questioned the ethics of the other leading candidate for his party's nomination, saying in a debate Thursday he is the only one who could go 'belly to belly' on the issue against Republican incumbent Sen. Conrad Burns."
> Matt Gouras, Associated Press

Be sure to turn out for the debate in Billings tomorrow, sponsored by the Billings Gazette and MSU-Billings. The event is Tuesday, May 9, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. at the Petro Theater on the campus of MSU-Billings.

If you can't make it to Billings, Yellowstone Public Radio will carry the debate live.

You can also hear the May 4 Helena Independent Record Debate and the Health Montana Debate archived on Yellowstone Public Radio.

Swing by or tune in and show your support for Jon Tester!

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on May 08, 2006 at 6:22 pm
Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

1 Comment »

1. Students For Tester,
   Great job on the rally today!!! Good luck with finals. Remember to tell your friends and family back home to get out and vote for Tester.
   Go Fight Win,
   Jess

   Comment by Jess — May 8, 2006 @ 10:32 pm

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Help Jon Make the Cut

Watch our new television ad, "Creating a Buzz"

[Windows Media Player]

[QuickTime]

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on May 09, 2006 at 12:58 pm
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

5 Comments »

1. living all my life in wisconsin, i remember watching senator mansfield on tv and thinking what a great us senator who fought for the regular person and above all had integrity—it looks like montana is ready to elect another watched the ad on the web and loved it but wouldn't be getting a buzz cut anytime soon

   Comment by timm speerschneider May 9, 2006 @ 5.33 pm

2. [ ] View it here [ ]

   Pingback by Intelligent Discontent » Blog Archive » See Jon Tester's New TV Ad May 9, 2006 @ 6.13 pm

3. Hey! Is that Ray Peck in that ad?

   Comment by BLW — May 10, 2006 @ 9.46 am

4. It is former repersenative and current statesman Ray Peck.

   Comment by Jess May 15, 2006 @ 8.55 pm

5. As a Montanan living in Arizona, it does me proud to see someone like John Tester stepping forward to take leadership We need some like him in Arizona!

   Comment by Jane Hetland Stevenson May 16, 2006 @ 7.12 pm

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Supporters

Jon is proud to have the vocal support of many elected officials across Montana, including former U S Senator John Melcher, former State Auditor Mark O'Keefe, Public Service Commissioners Greg Jergeson and Bob Raney, and 46 state legislators -over half of the Democratic delegation to the Montana Legislature

> "Jon Tester is Montana from the ground up," said a letter from Melcher read at a Democratic Party dinner in Great Falls Saturday night and released Tuesday "I like him, I support him I'm voting Tester I ask you to support him too "
>
> Summing up his endorsements, Tester said, "These are folks I've worked with at the Capitol in Helena and listened to voters with in every corner of the state Their help demonstrates our broad support and that we're gaining momentum "

Check out the Helena Independent Record for the full story on our endorsements

You can also visit the campaign website to see the list

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on May 17, 2006 at 11 09 am
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

No Comments »

No comments yet

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Lee Newspapers Profile Tester

Jennifer McKee of the Montana Lee State Bureau took some time to interview Jon and write about the campaign awhile back and her candidate profile appeared in Lee Newspapers today

The piece is a straightforward and sometimes surprising glimpse inside the day-to-day life of the Tester family and the campaign for the U.S. Senate

> Unseating Burns is not the only reason he's running for Senate, Tester said. It's not even one of the top reasons.
>
> Tester is running because Big Sandy public schools used to need three bus routes to pick up all the farm kids, now the farm kids barely fill up one. Working families used to have a shot at being middle class, now they're treading water.
>
> Tester is running because a couple of weeks ago a single mom called him up. "She's a Big Sandy girl," he said. Her daughter survived childhood brain cancer and now requires shots that cost $6,400 a year.
>
> Insurance doesn't cover it.
>
> "When I think about prescription drugs, those are the kinds of faces that pop into my mind," said Tester.

Check out the Billings Gazette for the complete story. The Gazette also has Jon's answers to key personal and political issues.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on May 21, 2006 at 10:08 pm
Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

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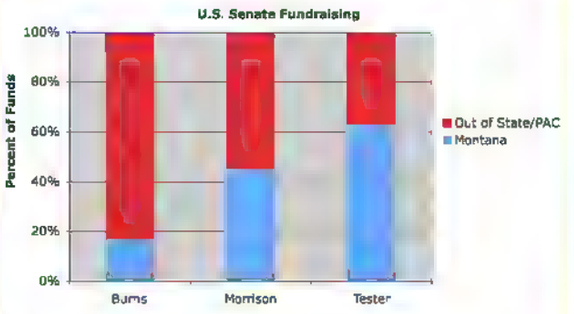
More Montana



An interesting piece on campaign finance and the U S Senate race in the Missoulian today

Mike Dennison at the Lee State Bureau did some digging in campaign financial disclosure reports and found some statistics that shed light on the candidates and how they conduct their campaigns Conrad Burns has collected nearly $800,000 from corporate CEOs, and nearly $2.6 million from PACs In response, the GOP trots out the same tired line about supposed out of state funds behind Democratic campaigns

The GOP's oft repeated mantra is flat out wrong about the Tester campaign Jon Tester has raised over 63% of his funds from Montanans

> Tester has collected plenty of smaller contributions because he appeals to working folks who don't have a lot of money, said campaign manager Bill Lombardi
>
> "It's just a lot of working Montanans who support Jon Tester, a farmer and a working guy," Lombardi said
>
> The Tester campaign also has made a special effort to solicit campaign funds online, resulting in many $25 and $50 donations from Montana and all over the country, he added

Your support has made this campaign more about montana than interests out of state Check out the article for more on the U S Senate campaign Montanans built.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on May 23, 2006 at 10:26 am
Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

1 Comment »

1. Just heard about Richards! Congrats to team Tester and the lefty bloggers!
   People, we do have the power to change congress

   Comment by Wacko Lib May 31, 2006 @ 9.33 pm

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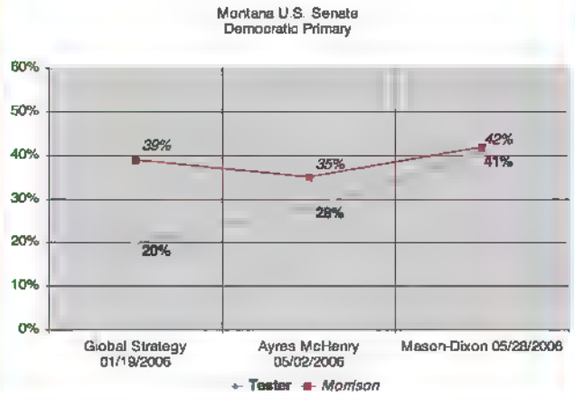
Poll. Tester, Morrison Deadlocked

Helena Independent Record: "Tester, Morrison Deadlocked"

"The thing that strikes me is that Morrison is still better known than Tester, but Tester has a higher favorable rating with Democrats,' said Brad Coker, managing director of Mason Dixon Polling & Research, which conducted the poll 'Tester may have a little more upward mobility. He's pretty well positioned for the primary. I think it's a close race, but if Tester won, it wouldn't surprise me '"



Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on May 28, 2006 at 6.43 am
Comments | Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

2 Comments »

1. The Morrison campaign is tanking!

   If Morrison has nothing to hide, why is he hiding?
   See May 26 Great Falls Tribune article

   Comment by jim toevs — May 28, 2006 @ 4.22 pm

2. I think Tester is the only one who man who will see that the glaciers from my days will still be around for my children to see

   Comment by Michael McCroskery — June 3, 2006 @ 11.35 pm

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News From the Campaign Trail

We've had a flurry of activity over the past week here at the Tester campaign Bumper Stickers, campaign literature and yard signs are going out the door at record pace and volunteers around the state are calling their neighbors about the race

It's been a wildfire in the press as well These headlines indicate how momentum has shifted to Tester as the Primary Election approaches

Missoula Independent: "Photo Finish"

> "Suddenly, Tester's dark horse campaign came galloping into the light. Jon Tester, his supporters said, was the only candidate with nothing to hide, and hence was the only one who could take on and beat Burns For his part, and without going directly after Morrison's indiscretions, Tester said the same thing
>
> This week's polls show Tester has come from behind and is now running neck and neck with Morrison and, for the first time, surpassing him in fundraising. If momentum means anything, it would appear the momentum going into the election is strongly with Tester "

Forbes: "Burns Faces Questions on Ties to Lobbyist"

> "'I think, given the overall importance of ethics, if we're just looking at one issue, that Tester is better placed than Morrison,' said Craig Wilson, a Montana State University Billings political scientist who has observed Montana politics for 40 years "

Billings Gazette: "Richards: Tester is Best Choice"

> "Richards said he thinks Tester is the best Democrat to defeat U S Sen Conrad Burns, R Mont , in the November general election and that Morrison, if nominated, would lose to Burns
>
> "'My votes could make a difference,' Richards said 'I couldn't be comfortable sitting on the votes that I have if John Morrison is the nominee '"

Billings Gazette: "Morrison Refuses Tester's Invitation to Last Debate"

> "Tester, a Big Sandy rancher and president of the state Senate, challenged Morrison, a Helena attorney who is state auditor, to the debate so voters can hear the differences between the two candidates
>
> 'Montana voters deserve to hear from both of us as much as they can so they can elect the best Democrat to take on Conrad Burns this fall,' Tester said in a press release 'Voters want to hear from us directly That's the way our democracy works best '"

National Journal: "Montana, Jersey & Arizona, On The Move"

> "We've been tempted to move this race up for months, but the state's overall GOP tendencies have held us back. But not anymore, not when one of the more respected polls we've seen from the state (Mason Dixon) shows both Democrats topping Burns We used to be in the camp that said Morrison was Burns' toughest foe But we're no longer so sure of that, as Tester has shown surprising strength and put to rest rumors questioning his campaign trail discipline "

USA Today: "Montana's Burns Gets Set for Tough Race"

Missoulian: "Burns Busy with Fundraisers"

CQ: "MT Senate: Race to Take On Embattled Burns Nears Finish"

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun 01, 2006 at 12:41 pm
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

4 Comments »

1. [ ] As has become increasingly apparent, the authors of this site believe that Jon Tester should be the candidate that Democrats choose to challenge Conrad Burns in Novermber If Democrats want to send Conrad Burns back to Missouri, Jon Tester is the man to do it, and we are happy to endorse his candidacy It's telling that we haven't always been so sure I entered the primary season not knowing much about either candidate, but every day has made it more clear that Jon Tester is better on the issues and the better candidate [.]

   Pingback by Intelligent Discontent » Blog Archive » Jon Tester: The Best Choice on Tuesday (Our Endorsement) June 2, 2006 @ 3.21 am

2. I eagerly await the Tester/Burns match up in November so that Conrad can take a really long vacation doing some manufacturing on Marianas Island under the conditions he helped set up

   Comment by grannyinsanity — June 2, 2006 @ 9.18 pm

3. If Jon has earned newspaper endorsements, they ought to be prominently displayed on the website!

   Comment by Bill Dunbar — June 6, 2006 @ 11.26 am

4. Congrats! Not from your state, but sure glad to see a real guy win Good luck in November

   Comment by Lisa B — June 6, 2006 @ 11:03 pm

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Sprint to the Finish

Jon kicked off a tour of the state in Helena today where he stopped by the Farmer's Market and cheered for the runners in the Governor's Cup We had a great group of volunteers and a tremendous response to Jon's presence at the event.

Stay tuned for more updates from the road as we close in on Election Day

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun 03, 2006 at 9:48 pm
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

2 Comments »

1. Jon kicked butt on todays NPR Senatorial forum, and I think that I convinced a stout Republican to vote Democratic tomorrow so that he could vote for Tester and Crowley

   One mind at a time .

   Comment by grannyinsanity June 5, 2006 @ 9:56 pm

2. Go Jon, go!

   Comment by grannyinsanity June 5, 2006 @ 9:57 pm

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Vote Today

Polls in Montana are open from 7 a m to 8 p m

For more information about the election or to find your polling place contact your county election administrator Don't hesitate to call us at (406) 454 2006 or (406) 449-0117 if you need help getting out to vote

Election results will be available online this evening, I would suggest checking out the following resources

Great Falls Tribune

Billings Gazette

Bozeman Chronicle

Montana's News Station

Montana Secretary of State

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun 06, 2006 at 9:39 am
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

No Comments »

No comments yet.

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Liveblogging Tonight at TesterTime

I'll be live-blogging results here tonight at TesterTime. Check back for results, photos, and updates from the party at the Holiday Inn Parkside in Missoula, MT

Note that I will NOT be the spokesperson for the Tester campaign tonight. Official statements will be clearly marked as such

Our next update will be after the polls close at around 8:00 p.m. MDT. Absentee numbers should be released soon after that.

For now, back to GOTV calls

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun. 06, 2006 at 9:51 am
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

8 Comments »

1. There are at lease two Montana exiles (one of them from Big Sandy) down here in Florida that will be on the edge of their seats tonight so PLEASE update frequently!

   Comment by Clare — June 6, 2006 @ 10:35 am

2. My girlfriend and I have been supporting, and following John T. since last October, and we want to wish him the best of luck in today's primary. It's been awesome watching him become a sharpened candidate, and surge over the past few weeks. Your a candidate that we truly respect and admire. We are not Montanans, but we are proud to know that your going to be in the Senate. Good Luck John, and give Conrad hell in the general election.

   Jason P. Houser
   Jaclyn Macek

   Comment by Jason P. Houser — June 6, 2006 @ 1:41 pm

3. Hey! I was thinking of coming down, too! Will you have a wireless network up? Can I join you for a lil' live blogging fiesta?

   Comment by touchstone — June 6, 2006 @ 3:01 pm

4. Just wanted you to know we have been praying for you all day. Went around and made sure all my neighbors voted, and slipped your name in there. We send our thoughts.

   Comment by Beth Courtnage — June 6, 2006 @ 3:58 pm

5. Thanks Andy doin' up Jon's blog up right.

   Comment by Jason — June 6, 2006 @ 5:35 pm

6. I am in Wisconsin tonight and want to know how the vote is going, does anyone have some results to share?

   Comment by Eric Newman — June 6, 2006 @ 7:41 pm

7. Congrats to John Tester (I know it's premature, but I have a feeling .)

   Comment by HP — June 6, 2006 @ 8:43 pm

8. check results on www.swingstateproject.com. good luck against grumpy ole mr. burns

   Comment by Jose — June 6, 2006 @ 9:41 pm

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Live from Tester HQ

8:23 p.m.
We're on the ground in Missoula. Lots of energy and good results from absentees coming in from Billings. Check out the Billings Gazette for these numbers

Results from Yellowstone County: Tester 969, Morrison 1140, Richards 39, Marcure 15, Candee 12. (absentee)

8:28 p.m.
Results from Ravalli County: Tester 980, Morrison 438. (early pickup + absentee)

Results from Lewis and Clark County: Tester 2757, Morrison 881. (absentees)

8:43 p.m.
Results from Missoula County: Tester 909, Morrison 347, Richards 16, Candee 8, Marcure 12 (not sure what this is)

8:50 p.m.
Results from Musselshell County: Tester 112, Morrison 140, Richards 2, Candee 1, Marcure 0

Results from Big Horn County: Tester 21, Morrison 12

8:55 p.m.
Our early total: Tester 5770 (65%), Morrison 2978 (33%), Richards 106 (1%), Marcure 38 (0%), Candee 36 (0%)

Starting a new thread. Cautiously optimistic here

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun 06, 2006 at 8:24 pm
Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

5 Comments »

1. Bill L? Where are you? Good job, man, and call me after Jon wins so I can help rid Congress of the thief!

   Comment by JimmyW — June 6, 2006 @ 8:37 pm

2. Go Andy!

   How's the party?

   Comment by jhwygirl — June 6, 2006 @ 9:00 pm

3. Keep up the great work Andy

   Comment by iNBrian — June 6, 2006 @ 9:02 pm

4. **Election Results**

   We'll keep this post updated on the election results. As of 9:06PM there is no local results, yet. They are counting absentee ballots

   Trackback by Montana Democrat News — June 6, 2006 @ 9:06 pm

5. Looking very good indeed, Jon. Greetings from the Golden State. Mike Nolan

   Comment by Michael Nolan — June 6, 2006 @ 11:23 pm

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Live from Tester HQ Part II

9:00 p.m.
Results from Cascade County
Tester 1295, Morrison 695 (absentees)

9:03 p.m.
Results from Cascade County
Tester 4779, Morrison 2611

9:05 p.m.
Results from Yellowstone County
Tester 2349, Morrison 2207

9:16 p.m.
Evidently the Cascade county number above is incorrect.

9:19 p.m.
Results from Missoula County
Tester 4199, Morrison 1236 (29 of 101 precincts)

9:21 p.m.
Now for some not as good news, but still early .

Results from Silver Bow County
Tester 455, Morrison 786

Results from Deer Lodge County
Tester 422, Morrison 695

9:37 p.m.

Results from Flathead County
Tester 330, Morrison 311

Results from Lewis and Clark County
Tester 3846, Morrison 1209

NOTE all of these are preliminary unless otherwise noted

9:42 p.m.
Results from Silver Bow County
Tester 809, Morrison 1241

9:43 p.m.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun 06, 2006 at 9:01 pm
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

12 Comments »

1. Tell Jon that this supporter in Washington state is proud of the race he ran and is looking forward to seeing him elected as the next U.S. Senator from Montana.

   Comment by Ken Camp — June 6, 2006 @ 9:12 pm

2. Wow, Yellowstone might end up in our camp? If so, it may be time to get wild-eyed optimistic.

   Comment by Chris O. — June 6, 2006 @ 9:15 pm

3. Lewis and Clark reporting TESTER 4187 Morrison 1028!

   Comment by jhwygirl — June 6, 2006 @ 9:22 pm

4. Granite TESTER 122 Morrison 80
   Wibaux TESTER 53 Morrison 25
   From SOS website

   Comment by jhwygirl — June 6, 2006 @ 9:28 pm

5. Petroleum TESTER 28 Morrison 13
   Source: SOS website

   Comment by jhwygirl — June 6, 2006 @ 9:31 pm

6. Golden Valley TESTER 77 Morrison 57

   Good signs, Tester taking all the smaller counties, don't ya think?

   Comment by jhwygirl — June 6, 2006 @ 9:42 pm

7. Hi Montana . watching your blog from Idaho, where we hope Jon Tester wins big tonight. Go netroots!

   Comment by Julie Fanselow — June 6, 2006 @ 9:42 pm

8. Chris Bowers at MyDD

   I now project Tester as the winner in Montana. With 19,000 votes counted, Tester is crushing Morrison 64.8%–32.9%. There were only 55,000 votes cast in the 2002 primary. Morrison barely won his Yellowstone stronghold. I'm calling this one. This is a truly remarkable victory for Montana, and for the netroots. Wow–a huge win.

   Comment by ck — June 6, 2006 @ 9:46 pm

9. Andy, friend of Matt Singer and Kendall Van Dyk's here. Who's Sen. Melcher? Is he a pal of Morrison's, or what?

   Comment by Rafe — June 6, 2006 @ 9:57 pm

10. I don't get it. Silver Bow and Deer Lodge are the most Democratic counties in MT. I'd think they would go for the more liberal Tester. What am I missing?

    Comment by Jason — June 6, 2006 @ 10:12 pm

11. Melcher was defeated by Burns in 88.

    Comment by tNBrian — June 6, 2006 @ 10:14 pm

12. Montana 2006-06-07 04:10:58 GMT U.S. Senate - Dem Primary
    County Precincts R. Candee P. Richards K. Marcure
    Total 342/867 J. Tester 31,805 61.87%
    J. Morrison 8,288 35.58%

    from Billings Gazette

    http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/files/elections/2006/by_county/MT_Page_0606.html?SITE=MTBIL&N&SECTION=POLITICS

    Comment by Don — June 6, 2006 @ 10:16 pm

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Live from Tester HQ Part III

10:00 p.m.

We need some new numbers here still, especially Cascade and Yellowstone

But

Missoula Co

Tester, 11,380 Morrison, 3047

That is 4000 more than voted in 2004 Primary for Governor

10 00 news on now

10:08 p.m.

New Numbers

Flathead
Tester 1362
Morrison 1192 80% in

Yellowstone
Tester 6150
Morrison 5330

Gallatin
Tester 943
Morrison 429

10:13 p.m.

Jeff Ament is on KPAX (Montana's News Station) at the election night event here in Missoula

We're still waiting for results but VERY pleased Rumor is that they are starting the count over in Cascade County

10:22 p.m.

Just heard Michelle Reinhart won Congrats another young democrat in the legislature

10:26 p.m.

Numbers from the Hi Line

Hill County
Tester 488
Morrison 88

Liberty County
Tester 175
Morrison 19

10:28 p.m.

Blaine County
Tester 778
Morrison 265

10:30 p.m.

Morrison is on KPAX now

10:32 p.m.

AP has not called the race, John Morrison is delivering a stand up unity speech about the important issues facing Montana, including the culture of corruption surrounding Conrad Burns

10:36 p.m.

I am signing off from here Results will not update for a while

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun 06, 2006 at 9:59 pm
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

14 Comments »

1. Gazette's latest #s

   With 288 of 867 precints in
   Tester 28,657 62.7%
   Morrison 15,932 34.86%

   Comment by Don Pogreba — June 6, 2006 @ 10:02 pm

2. FINAL for Carter Co TESTER 24 Morrison 19
   Source SOS website

   Comment by jhwygirl — June 6, 2006 @ 10:17 pm

3. With 359/867
   T 33,112 62.06
   M 18,814 35.26

   Comment by INBrian — June 6, 2006 @ 10:19 pm

4. Just confirmed on the news restarting the count in Cascade Co

   Comment by Don Pogreba — June 6, 2006 @ 10:23 pm

5. Stranger things may have happened than a Morrison win at this point, but I think this thing is over!

   Comment by Chris O — June 6, 2006 @ 10:26 pm

6. FINAL for McCone Co TESTER 106 Morrison 70
   Source SOS website

   KECI just did an interview with a Morrison guy He's clearly SHOCKED>>>

   Comment by jhwygirl — June 6, 2006 @ 10:31 pm

7. Congratulations!!!!!!!!

   You can rest a bit…then it's time to get to work.

   Comment by Don Pogreba — June 6, 2006 @ 10:43 pm

8. Tester wins! AP calls Goodnight!

   Comment by INBrian — June 6, 2006 @ 10:46 pm

9. Congratulations Jon and the Tester Campaign! I am sending you, "Foxes in the Hen House, How the Republicans stole the South ." It's a great read and has the plan to take back the so called "conservative vote", not just in the South but across the country What a great victory, Burns is trembling tonight!

   Comment by Eric Newman — June 6, 2006 @ 10:49 pm

10. CONGRATULATIONS ANDY!

    Comment by hit_escape — June 6, 2006 @ 11:14 pm

11. Hey Jon! congratulations! I guess this means you'll have less time to practice trumpet, no?
    I'll be voting for you from overseas I'm teaching in Bangkok Thailand at an international school and enjoying it very much When you unseat Conrad Burns you'll have answered many a prayer My best to you and your family and much good luck in the future

    sincerely,
    Tom

    Comment by Tom Myers — June 6, 2006 @ 11:37 pm

12. Congratulations

    It is my hope (our hope?) that as the campaign intensifies you will find ways to avoid the rhetoric of ideology that Sen Burns is already slinging your way We do not need to be told what's wrong with him I believe we already sense deeply that it is time for a change, that we can see through rhetoric And so appeal to our common sense Your staying away from flailing away at Morrison's lapses was wise, effective, and honorable

    Well, thank you for running and let us carry you along

    Lawrence Pray
    Big Timber

    Comment by Lawrence Pray — June 7, 2006 @ 11:48 am

13. Congratulations to Jon! I am updating my anti Burns site (www.defeatconradburns) right now I will also be linking to this site

    Good luck in the fall! Let's get Conrad out!!!!

    Comment by DefeatConradBurns — June 7, 2006 @ 2:49 pm

14. Congratulations Sen Tester I know Burns can be beat in Nov

    Comment by Maxine S Lane — June 10, 2006 @ 12:52 pm

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Tester Victorious

Edit, as of this post, AP had not called the race Bad intel

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun 06, 2006 at 10:57 pm
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

5 Comments »

1. yahoo!

   Comment by grace — June 6, 2006 @ 11:02 pm

2. Awesome! Whatever you Montana Democrats are drinking, bottle some up and send it to Boise

   Congrats to everyone Burns doens't stand a chance against the populist, progressive Mr Tester

   Comment by Julie Fanselow — June 6, 2006 @ 11:20 pm

3. LET'S GO LET'S GO !
   I LOVE THIS GUY I AM SO TIRED OF BEING ASHAMED OF OUR"REPRESENTATION" I PROMISED MY LITTLE 87 YR OLD MOM THAT WE COULD FIND A WAY TO BRING HUMANITY BACK TO MONTANA & US POLITICS SHE PASSED AWAY THIS SPRING, BUT YOU WILL HELP ME KEEP MY PROMISE BLESS YOU AND YIPPEEEE, S GUTOWSKI

   Comment by SUSAN GUTOWSKI — June 7, 2006 @ 3:01 am

4. Absolutely incredible victory Keep the message the same, don't waiver, and give Conrad the beat down of a lifetime
   JPH

   Comment by Jason P Houser — June 7, 2006 @ 9:16 am

5. Congratulations Jon!
   I will help get you elected Senator in the fall

   I was offended by Sen Elizabeth Dole's comments as quoted in this morning's Bozeman Chronicle, that you are a puppet of liberal special interests (???) and do not represent mainstream values of Montanans What a crust!! She insulted this Montana voter big time My feeling is that she had this statement prepared well ahead of time and was ready to pounce on whomever was elected among the Democrats Who's pulling her strings, anyway?
   I heartily agree with you that Gay Marriage is a smokescreen thrown up by the Bushites to distract us from the real issues Thanks for voicing that opinion
   I will put some energy behind getting you elected and will look forward to hearing from your campaign I'm a senior with less energy than when I was young activist but can do something.
   Best wishes,
   Marilyn Kjellen-Rogers
   Bozeman

   Comment by Marilyn Kjellen-Rogers — June 8, 2006 @ 7:39 pm

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Sirota. "it's Tester Time"

Sirota.

> Tonight is a terrible night for Conrad Burns, not only because one of his primary challengers got almost a quarter of GOP votes, but because Democrats now have Jon Tester carrying the flag against him. Burns barely eeked out a victory last time against Schweitzer – then an unknown first time candidate. Now, severely damaged by his connections to high-profile corruption scandals, Burns is facing a Schweitzer-style populist – but one who is better known than Schweitzer was during his dark horse Senate bid in 2000. It's Tester Time – and that means Burns' days in the Senate are numbered.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun. 07, 2006 at 12:04 am
Comments: Grow the Campaign – Forward This to a Friend

13 Comments »

1. We could tell the landslide was coming by the positive responses we got in our Honk and Wave today in Helena! There wasn't anybody honking for Morrison!

   Go Jon Tester!

   Comment by Ed in Montana — June 7, 2006 @ 12:07 am

2. Congradulations! Jon Tester has perhaps the most awesome hair of any Senate canidate I've ever seen. Oh, and I hear he's an awesome Democrat as well. Cheers!

   Comment by Arlen — June 7, 2006 @ 12:58 am

3. Err, that would really read better if I could actually spell the words 'congratulations' and 'candidate.' Haha

   Comment by Arlen — June 7, 2006 @ 12:59 am

4. Amen!

   Comment by Chris O. — June 7, 2006 @ 6:34 am

5. Good luck in November!

   Comment by John Kranick Jr — June 7, 2006 @ 9:07 am

6. Congratulations Jon. I'm glad you won as your stand on the issues is closest to what I believe in of the Democrats running in the primary. I have tended to vote Republican before this but I want that corrupt sack of compost, Conrad Burns out of the Senate. Plus I like your stand on NAIS and you have seemed to be a bit more fiscally conservative than your opponents. Thanks for running a good clean race that hopefully will bring Democrats and Republicans alike to vote Burns out and have a breath of fresh air in the Senate.

   Comment by Mary Kirby — June 7, 2006 @ 9:47 am

7. The margin surprised a lot of people. Seems like Jon has a lot of support in rural areas giving him a great shot in the fall. Rasmussmen polling from a couple of weeks ago indicated Tester was ahead of Burns. Jon should get a 5-10% bump in the polls from this big win.

   Comment by DefeatConradBurns — June 7, 2006 @ 2:52 pm

8. Thanks Jon, for giving us a candidate to believe in. That's what did it. An honest, down to earth Montanan. Congratulations!

   Comment by Wacko Lib — June 7, 2006 @ 7:15 pm

9. A. Henry Tweeten, this is such a sweet victory for you, Montana, the Dems, and the West in general. Tester's gonna show em that we don't need DLC style faux lawyer types to win races out there. Right on!!!

   Comment by Dan Feidt — June 7, 2006 @ 8:42 pm

10. I'm still thinking about getting my own buzz cut!

    Comment by grannyinsanity — June 7, 2006 @ 10:14 pm

11. Go Tester, but we need to give generously in order to defeat Burns and his massive corporate war chest, so please visit Jons website or http://www.actblue.com/page/thebest to donate.

    Comment by Rune Strom — June 8, 2006 @ 12:50 am

12. We are watching Jon Tester all the way from California and liking what we see. At last, a real person running for US Senate, instead of a rich empty suit!! I may not agree with Jon on every single issue, but over all, he is an outstanding candidate with the courage and toughness to face off with the Washington pack! Congratulations Montana

    Comment by Mary Ann Martorana — June 11, 2006 @ 11:57 am

13. Way to Go! Jon Tester. It's time the Democrats reclaim the Senate and House from the Republican Corruption Machine. I am from California and am starting to have some hope that the rest of the country will wake up to what is happening to our wonderful country. Good luck beating Burns in the Nov. election.

    Comment by Nancy Girvin — June 12, 2006 @ 12:25 pm

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Equal Health Care for All Montanans

Women deserve the right to full health care coverage, just like men

When I saw an opportunity to bring equality and fairness to women, I didn't sit back and wait - I took action. Every family should have the basic right to make decisions about their future, and every woman should have access to the prescriptions she needs It's that simple

NARAL Pro Choice Montana called my request "a courageous stand"

Here's what happened Last November, I asked Montana Attorney General Mike McGrath to evaluate and render an opinion on insurance coverage for contraception, especially when those plans cover Viagra and other prescriptions for men

Attorney General McGrath today agreed, saying that equality for women matters

> "As with Title VII, Montana case law demonstrates that because pregnancy is unique to women, differential treatment related to pregnancy and related medical conditions such as gynecological visits, is discrimination on the basis of sex, and is prohibited"

[Click here to read the the press release.]
[Click here to read the whole Attorney General's opinion.]

Equality also begins with respect and open, accountable government When politicians cut back room deals and close out the public interest, everyone on the outside loses We've all heard the stories about Conrad Burns' dealings with lobbyists like Jack Abramoff closing the door to Montanans in favor of the special interests

You and I both know that Burns is no friend when it comes to women's issues.

That's why I'm running for the U S Senate–to represent the needs of all Montanans, not the special interests and corporate lobbyists

That's the kind of leadership I will bring to Washington fighting and winning on the issues that matter most to us as Montanans

I have a proven record of taking action for Montanans supporting families, delivering prescription drugs for seniors, a better funding plan for our schools, a comprehensive energy strategy to cut our addiction to foreign oil, and economic incentives to create jobs in every corner of Montana

Can I count on you to help me fight to make a difference for women and families all across this nation? Today, we need your help to hit our fundraising target before the March 31 deadline I need you to volunteer and a make a contribution of $50, $100, $250 or whatever you can today

http://www.testerforsenate.com/contribute/

Together we can send Conrad Burns home and restore real family values in Washington

Thank you for all that you do,

Jon Tester

Posted by **Jon Tester** on Mar 28, 2006 at 3 28 pm
Comments None | Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

U of M Crowd Welcomes Tester

Jon was in Missoula last night for a fundraiser and a meeting with students at the University of Montana New West has the story Jon spoke with a large, enthusiastic crowd for over an hour

And surveys still say Conrad Burns is still the most unpopular senator in the country. New Survey USA numbers put Burns at 38% Conrad Burns has the lowest approval rating and the lowest net approval rating in the country Watch the numbers take a nosedive at Survey USA's website.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Mar 24, 2006 at 1 14 pm
Comments None | Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

Energizing the Netroots

The netroots have been an important part of the Tester campaign from the beginning Since Jon's filing, blogs have highlighted the race, responding to Jon's call for real representation in Washington, D C

Bob Brigham at MyDD recently wrote about the race calling it "the perfect opportunity" for the netroots to display their strength His post highlights Jon's record of accomplishment and the unique opportunity we have here in Montana to change the face of Washington, D C

Swing by MyDD for the whole story

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Mar 23, 2006 at 11 43 am
Comments None | Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

Mailbag

Today's Helena IR features a letter to the editor from Neal Ullman From the letter

> As a farmer, former teacher, and president of the Montana Senate, Jon is one of few people who wake up everyday wondering what they can do better to help their family, community, and state Jon's dedication to his family and state are the values we need representing us in Washington As scandal after scandal boils out of Washington, it's more and more clear that we need a fresh perspective to end the petty bickering

To write your own letter to the editor, you can consult the Montana Democratic Party website for newspaper contact information and formatting suggestions

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Mar 22, 2006 at 6 31 pm
Comments None | Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

Tester Officially Files for U.S. Senate

Yesterday, Jon Tester officially filed for U S Senate, calling for an end to Conrad Burns' "reign of corruption"

Jon submitted the necessary paperwork and spoke with reporters about the race More details about the filing are available in press coverage of the event

Montana's News Station

NewWest

Billings Gazette

Great Falls Tribune

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Mar 22, 2006 at 10 20 am
Comments None | Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

The Right Prescription for Montana

The Great Falls Tribune's Gwen Florio wrote a quick piece on Jon's promotional item at the Mansfield Metcalf dinner

From the article

> Tables featured prescription style bottles of M&Ms from U S Senate candidate Jon Tester, who backed a prescription drug bill in the 2005 session Tester also put an item in the silent auction — a campaign poster from the Pearl Jam fundraiser he held last summer, signed by the members of the band

Jon was the chief sponsor of the bill that created the Big Sky Rx program at the 2005 Montana Legislature This Gazette op ed has more information about the program and other Democratic victories on health care at the 2005 session

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Mar 20, 2006 at 11 16 am
Comments None | Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

Jon s Mansfield Metcalf Message

As promised, Jon s Mansfield Metcalf speech is now available online Check out Google Video for the great message Jon delivered to Montana Democrats on Saturday

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Mar 15, 2006 at 10 51 am
Comments 1 Comment | Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

Mansfield Metcalf Weekend

Montana Democrats gathered in Helena this weekend for the 28th Annual Mansfield Metcalf Dinner, remembering two great U S Senators from Montana Democrats attended meetings, trainings and social events over the weekend, gearing up to defeat Conrad Burns and win other races across the state in November

The legacy of Lee Metcalf and Mike Mansfield is a legacy of ensuring our government is open to serve everyone Both men truly held their office in the public trust fighting each day to help people in need Senator Max Baucus carries these values for Montanans today in the Senate, working for Montanans from all walks of life

Unfortunately, Montana's Junior Senator Conrad Burns closed the door on these values long ago, choosing to serve big money lobbyists in Washington D C instead of his constituents here at home

It's time to end the pay to play game in Washington D C and Jon Tester is the one who can do it In a video presented to dinner attendees, Jon shared his vision and values, stating,

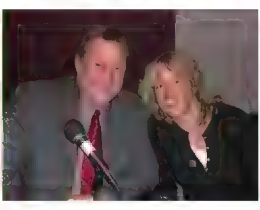
> "Growing up on a farm, I learned to work hard, have faith, love our country and support family and community Those are lessons we all teach our children, and it's a message Montana can teach America"

Jon's video really pumped up the crowd in the ballroom Applause interrupted the speech a number of times and Jon heard many positive comments afterword Tester closed strong, stating,

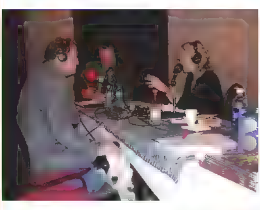
> "I may not look like the rest of the Senate, but maybe it's time that the rest of the Senate looked a little more like Montana"

Check back soon for an update, we hope to post a copy of Jon's video here on Tester Time and on the campaign website in the near future

The energy for Jon's campaign spilled outside the Helena Civic Center to a honk and wave across the street Thanks go out to our campaign volunteers and Students for Tester for braving the cold to spread the word about Jon's campaign



Before the dinner and program, Jon had the opportunity to chat with Laura Flanders of Air America Radio about his campaign Their interview is available to subscribers at Air America Premium



And, Governor Schweitzer and Jag stopped by to talk issues with Laura near the tail end of Jon's interview

Overall, it was a very encouraging weekend for the campaign Jon met Democrats from every corner of the state and talked about important issues to bring back to Washington, D C

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Mar 13, 2006 at 5 15 pm
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Planting Season

After a busy month on the campaign trail and some spring rain Jon is home, working on the family farm in Big Sandy

This week, Jon is working the fields getting the ground ready for seeding They had some rain Wednesday night, so Jon got in some calls to supporters this morning before starting work If the weather holds out, Jon and Sharla plan to begin planting tomorrow

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Apr 13, 2006 at 7 33 pm
Comments 7 Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Ravalli Democrats Welcome Tester

Jon was the keynote speaker at the Jefferson Jackson dinner in Hamilton this weekend In a mostly rural county that has long been considered a Republican stronghold, 150 people showed up to hear Jon and voice their support for Montana Democrats

Earlier in the day Jon met with a smaller group of Bitterroot valley residents in a town hall meeting to answer questions about issues important to them Jon spoke to the group about farming, ranching, and the future of Montana The group was most concerned about the future of family farm agriculture, energy independence, the cost of the war in Iraq, and economic development in Montana

The Ravalli Republic has the story on the town hall meeting on their website

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Apr 10, 2006 at 8 36 pm
Comments None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Newsweek Burns "Under Scrutiny"

Newsweek features an article on the Abramoff investigations following DeLay's decision to not seek re-election this fall Their sources indicate the fallout is spreading and Conrad Burns is at the top of the list

> But after DeLay, Burns may be the ripest target for Democrats, who dream of winning six seats and regaining the Senate Burns took more money from Abramoff and his clients than any other member of Congress nearly $150,000, according to Federal Election Commission records A lawyer familiar with the investigation, who declined to be named discussing an ongoing case, confirms that Burns is under scrutiny for his connections to Abramoff in particular, whether he and his staff promoted legislation to help Abramoff's clients in exchange for campaign contributions or gifts

And Republicans are concerned They've thrown their weight behind Burns, despite a challenge in the primary from State Senate Minority Leader Bob Keenan Republican Chair Chuck Denowh admits the Abramoff affair has gained traction, hurting Senator Burns' character with voters

> "One of his characteristics was his trustworthiness and integrity," says Chuck Denowh, executive director of the Montana Republican Party The Abramoff chatter "got people questioning that."

Interesting that Denowh uses past tense in describing Burns' trustworthiness and integrity

Ready for a Senator you can trust? Join the campaign today.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Apr 10, 2006 at 3 24 pm
Comments None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Springtime on the Hi Line

When Jon isn't talking to voters or in the office working on the campaign, he takes care of his day job running the family farm outside of Big Sandy, MT

Yesterday Jon was hard at work loading grain and lentils into the semi to go to the cleaner

To load up the truck, Jon shovels the grain from the bin to the auger

The auger moves Jon's product from the bin to the semi In this shot, Jon is loading lentils into the truck

Once the truck is loaded, Jon takes the product to be cleaned Yesterday he drove this load to Havre, MT

You'll notice that it's pretty gray outside in these shots It's a perfect time for rain as Jon is looking to plant his crops in the coming weeks We'll keep you posted as Jon plants on the farm and works with the grassroots on the campaign trail

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Apr 06, 2006 at 10 17 am
Comments 1 Comment | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

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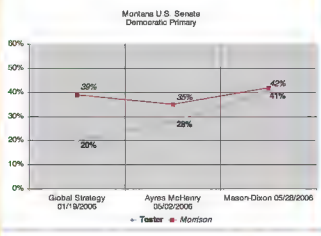
Poll, Tester, Morrison Deadlocked

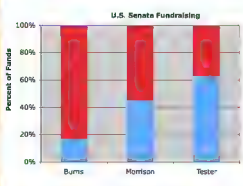
Helena Independent Record: "Tester, Morrison Deadlocked"

"The thing that strikes me is that Morrison is still better known than Tester, but Tester has a higher favorable rating with Democrats,' said Brad Coker, managing director of Mason Dixon Polling & Research, which conducted the poll 'Tester may have a little more upward mobility. He's pretty well positioned for the primary. I think it's a close race, but if Tester won, it wouldn't surprise me "



Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on May 28, 2006 at 6:43 am
Comments: 2 Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

More Montana



An interesting piece on campaign finance and the U.S. Senate race in the Missoulian today

Mike Dennison at the Lee State Bureau did some digging in campaign financial disclosure reports and found some statistics that shed light on the candidates and how they conduct their campaigns. Conrad Burns has collected nearly $800,000 from corporate CEOs, and nearly $2.6 million from PACs. In response, the GOP trots out the same tired line about supposed out of state funds behind Democratic campaigns

The GOP's oft repeated mantra is flat out wrong about the Tester campaign. Jon Tester has raised over 63% of his funds from Montanans

> Tester has collected plenty of smaller contributions because he appeals to working folks who don't have a lot of money, said campaign manager Bill Lombardi
>
> "It's just a lot of working Montanans who support Jon Tester, a farmer and a working guy," Lombardi said
>
> The Tester campaign also has made a special effort to solicit campaign funds online, resulting in many $25 and $50 donations from Montana and all over the country, he added

Your support has made this campaign more about montana than interests out of state. Check out the article for more on the U.S. Senate campaign Montanans built.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on May 23, 2006 at 10:26 am
Comments: 1 Comment | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Lee Newspapers Profile Tester

Jennifer McKee of the Montana Lee State Bureau took some time to interview Jon and write about the campaign awhile back and her candidate profile appeared in Lee Newspapers today

The piece is a straightforward and sometimes surprising glimpse inside the day to day life of the Tester family and the campaign for the U.S. Senate

> Unseating Burns is not the only reason he's running for Senate, Tester said. It's not even one of the top reasons
>
> Tester is running because Big Sandy public schools used to need three bus routes to pick up all the farm kids, now the farm kids barely fill up one. Working families used to have a shot at being middle class, now they're treading water
>
> Tester is running because a couple of weeks ago a single mom called him up. "She's a Big Sandy girl," he said. Her daughter survived childhood brain cancer and now requires shots that cost $6,400 a year
>
> Insurance doesn't cover it
>
> "When I think about prescription drugs, those are the kinds of faces that pop into my mind," said Tester

Check out the Billings Gazette for the complete story. The Gazette also has Jon's answers to key personal and political issues

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on May 21, 2006 at 10:08 pm
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Supporters

Jon is proud to have the vocal support of many elected officials across Montana, including former U.S. Senator John Melcher, former State Auditor Mark O'Keefe, Public Service Commissioners Greg Jergeson and Bob Raney, and 46 state legislators- over half of the Democratic delegation to the Montana Legislature

> "Jon Tester is Montana from the ground up," said a letter from Melcher read at a Democratic Party dinner in Great Falls Saturday night and released Tuesday. "I like him, I support him. I'm voting Tester. I ask you to support him too."
>
> .
>
> Summing up his endorsements, Tester said, "These are folks I've worked with at the Capitol in Helena and listened to voters with in every corner of the state. Their help demonstrates our broad support and that we're gaining momentum."

Check out the Helena Independent Record for the full story on our endorsements

You can also visit the campaign website to see the list.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on May 17, 2006 at 11:09 am
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Help Jon Make the Cut

Watch our new television ad, "Creating a Buzz"

[Windows Media Player]

[QuickTime]

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on May 09, 2006 at 12:58 pm
Comments: 5 Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Tester Debates the Issues

There have been a number of vigorous debates around the state in recent weeks, and Jon has impressed the audience at all of them. Here are some excerpts from the most recent debate in Helena

> "The audience also broke into clapping once when Tester's wife Sharla stood up, holding their 21 month old granddaughter, Kilikina
>
> 'That's my grand daughter,' Tester said. 'That's why I'm running for the U.S. Senate.'"
> Jennifer McKee, Lee State Bureau
>
> "Democratic Senate hopeful Jon Tester questioned the ethics of the other leading candidate for his party's nomination, saying in a debate Thursday he is the only one who could go 'belly to belly' on the issue against Republican incumbent Sen. Conrad Burns."
> Matt Gouras, Associated Press

Be sure to turn out for the debate in Billings tomorrow, sponsored by the Billings Gazette and MSU- Billings. The event is Tuesday, May 9, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. at the Petro Theater on the campus of MSU-Billings

If you can't make it to Billings, Yellowstone Public Radio will carry the debate live

You can also hear the May 4 Helena Independent Record Debate and the Health Montana Debate archived on Yellowstone Public Radio

Swing by or tune in and show your support for Jon Tester!

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on May 08, 2006 at 6:22 pm
Comments: 1 Comment | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

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Sirota, "It's Tester Time"

Sirota,

> Tonight is a terrible night for Conrad Burns, not only because one of his primary challengers got almost a quarter of GOP votes, but because Democrats now have Jon Tester carrying the flag against him. Burns barely eeked out a victory last time against Schweitzer - then an unknown first time candidate. Now, severely damaged by his connections to high profile corruption scandals, Burns is facing a Schweitzer style populist - but one who is better known than Schweitzer was during his dark horse Senate bid in 2000. It's Tester Time - and that means Burns' days in the Senate are numbered.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun. 07, 2006 at 12:04 am
Comments 13 Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

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Tester Victorious

Edit, as of this post, AP had not called the race. Bad intel.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun. 06, 2006 at 10:57 pm
Comments 5 Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

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Live from Tester HQ Part III

10:00 p.m.

We need some new numbers here still, especially Cascade and Yellowstone.

But

Missoula Co

Tester, 11,380 Morrison, 3047

That is 4000 more than voted in 2004 Primary for Governor.

10:00 news on now

10:08 p.m.

New Numbers

Flathead
Tester 1362
Morrison 1192 80% in

Yellowstone
Tester 6150
Morrison 5330

Gallatin
Tester 943
Morrison 429

10:13 p.m.

Jeff Ament is on KPAX (Montana's News Station) at the election night event here in Missoula.

We're still waiting for results but VERY pleased. Rumor is that they are starting the count over in Cascade County.

10:22 p.m.

Just heard Michelle Reinhart won. Congrats - another young democrat in the legislature.

10:26 p.m.

Numbers from the Hi Line

Hill County
Tester 488
Morrison 88

Liberty County
Tester 175
Morrison 19

10:28 p.m.

Blaine County
Tester 778
Morrison 265

10:30 p.m.

Morrison is on KPAX now.

10:32 p.m.

AP has not called the race, John Morrison is delivering a stand up unity speech about the important issues facing Montana, including the culture of corruption surrounding Conrad Burns.

10:36 p.m.

I am signing off from here. Results will not update for a while.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun. 06, 2006 at 9:59 pm
Comments 14 Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

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Live from Tester HQ Part II

9:00 p.m.
Results from Cascade County
Tester 1295, Morrison 695 (absentees)

9:03 p.m.
Results from Cascade County
Tester 4779, Morrison 2611

9:05 p.m.
Results from Yellowstone County
Tester 2349, Morrison 2207

9:16 p.m.
Evidently the Cascade county number above is incorrect.

9:19 p.m.
Results from Missoula County
Tester 4199, Morrison 1236 (29 of 101 precincts)

9:21 p.m.
Now for some not as good news, but still early.

Results from Silver Bow County
Tester 455, Morrison 786

Results from Deer Lodge County
Tester 422, Morrison 695

9:37 p.m.

Results from Flathead County
Tester 330, Morrison 311

Results from Lewis and Clark County
Tester 3846, Morrison 1209

NOTE: all of these are preliminary unless otherwise noted.

9:42 p.m.
Results from Silver Bow County
Tester 809, Morrison 1241

9:43 p.m.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun. 06, 2006 at 9:01 pm
Comments 12 Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

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Live from Tester HQ

8:23 p.m.
We're on the ground in Missoula. Lots of energy and good results from absentees coming in from Billings. Check out the Billings Gazette for these numbers.

Results from Yellowstone County: Tester 969, Morrison 1140, Richards 39, Marcure 15, Candee 12. (absentee)

8:28 p.m.
Results from Ravalli County: Tester 980, Morrison 438. (early pickup + absentee)

Results from Lewis and Clark County: Tester 2757, Morrison 881. (absentees)

8:43 p.m.
Results from Missoula County: Tester 909, Morrison 347, Richards 16, Candee 8, Marcure 12 (not sure what this is)

8:50 p.m.
Results from Musselshell County: Tester 112, Morrison 140, Richards 2, Candee 1, Marcure 0

Results from Big Horn County: Tester 21, Morrison 12

8:55 p.m.
Our early total: Tester 5770 (65%), Morrison 2978 (33%), Richards 106 (1%), Marcure 38 (0%), Candee 36 (0%)

Starting a new thread. Cautiously optimistic here.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun. 06, 2006 at 8:24 pm
Comments 5 Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

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Liveblogging Tonight at TesterTime

I'll be live-blogging results here tonight at TesterTime. Check back for results, photos, and updates from the party at the Holiday Inn Parkside in Missoula, MT.

Note that I will NOT be the spokesperson for the Tester campaign tonight. Official statements will be clearly marked as such.

Our next update will be after the polls close at around 8:00 p.m. MDT. Absentee numbers should be released soon after that.

For now, back to GOTV calls.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun. 06, 2006 at 9:51 am
Comments 8 Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

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Vote Today

Polls in Montana are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For more information about the election or to find your polling place contact your county election administrator. Don't hesitate to call us at (406) 454-2006 or (406) 449-0117 if you need help getting out to vote.

Election results will be available online this evening. I would suggest checking out the following resources:

Great Falls Tribune

Billings Gazette

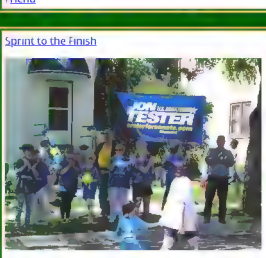
Bozeman Chronicle

Montana's News Station

Montana Secretary of State

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun. 06, 2006 at 9:39 am
Comments None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Sprint to the Finish



Jon kicked off a tour of the state in Helena today where he stopped by the Farmer's Market and cheered for the runners in the Governor's Cup. We had a great group of volunteers and a tremendous response to Jon's presence at the event.

Stay tuned for more updates from the road as we close in on Election Day.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun. 03, 2006 at 9:48 pm
Comments 2 Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Paid for and authorized by Montanans for Tester, P.O. Box 1248, Big Sandy, MT 59520

[News From the Campaign Trail]

We've had a flurry of activity over the past week here at the Tester campaign Bumper Stickers, campaign literature and yard signs are going out the door at record pace and volunteers around the state are calling their neighbors about the race

It's been a wildfire in the press as well These headlines indicate how momentum has shifted to Tester as the Primary Election approaches

Missoula Independent: "Photo Finish"

> "Suddenly, Tester's dark horse campaign came galloping into the light. Jon Tester, his supporters said, was the only candidate with nothing to hide, and hence was the only one who could take on and beat Burns For his part, and without going directly after Morrison's indiscretions, Tester said the same thing.
>
> This week's polls show Tester has come from behind and is now running neck and neck with Morrison and, for the first time, surpassing him in fundraising If momentum means anything, it would appear the momentum going into the election is strongly with Tester "

Forbes: "Burns Faces Questions on Ties to Lobbyist"

> "'I think, given the overall importance of ethics, if we're just looking at one issue, that Tester is better placed than Morrison,' said Craig Wilson, a Montana State University-Billings political scientist who has observed Montana politics for 40 years "

Billings Gazette: "Richards: Tester is Best Choice"

> "Richards said he thinks Tester is the best Democrat to defeat U S Sen Conrad Burns, R Mont., in the November general election and that Morrison, if nominated, would lose to Burns
>
> "'My votes could make a difference,' Richards said 'I couldn't be comfortable sitting on the votes that I have if John Morrison is the nominee '"

Billings Gazette: "Morrison Refuses Tester's Invitation to Last Debate"

> "Tester, a Big Sandy rancher and president of the state Senate, challenged Morrison, a Helena attorney who is state auditor, to the debate so voters can hear the differences between the two candidates
>
> 'Montana voters deserve to hear from both of us as much as they can so they can elect the best Democrat to take on Conrad Burns this fall,' Tester said in a press release 'Voters want to hear from us directly That's the way our democracy works best.'"

National Journal: "Montana, Jersey & Arizona, On The Move"

> "We've been tempted to move this race up for months, but the state's overall GOP tendencies have held us back. But not anymore, not when one of the more respected polls we've seen from the state (Mason Dixon) shows both Democrats topping Burns We used to be in the camp that said Morrison was Burns' toughest foe But we're no longer so sure of that, as Tester has shown surprising strength and put to rest rumors questioning his campaign trail discipline "

USA Today: "Montana's Burns Gets Set for Tough Race"

Missoulian: "Burns Busy with Fundraisers"

CQ: "MT Senate: Race to Take On Embattled Burns Nears Finish"

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun 01, 2006 at 12:41 pm
Comments 4 Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

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Poll. Tester, Morrison Deadlocked

Helena Independent Record: "Tester, Morrison Deadlocked"

"The thing that strikes me is that Morrison is still better known than Tester, but Tester has a higher favorable rating with Democrats,' said Brad Coker, managing director of Mason-Dixon Polling & Research, which conducted the poll 'Tester may have a little more upward mobility. He's pretty well positioned for the primary. I think it's a close race, but if Tester won, it wouldn't surprise me '"

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on May 28, 2006 at 6:43 am
Comments 2 Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

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More Montana

An interesting piece on campaign finance and the U.S Senate race in the Missoulian today

Mike Dennison at the Lee State Bureau did some digging in campaign financial disclosure reports and found some statistics that shed light on the candidates and how they conduct their campaigns Conrad Burns has collected nearly $800,000 from corporate CEOs, and nearly $2.6 million from PACs In response, the GOP trots out the same tired line about supposed out-of-state funds behind Democratic campaigns

The GOP's oft repeated mantra is flat out wrong about the Tester campaign Jon Tester has raised over 63% of his funds from Montanans

> Tester has collected plenty of smaller contributions because he appeals to working folks who don't have a lot of money, said campaign manager Bill Lombardi
>
> "It's just a lot of working Montanans who support Jon Tester, a farmer and a working guy," Lombardi said
>
> The Tester campaign also has made a special effort to solicit campaign funds online, resulting in many $25 and $50 donations from Montana and all over the country, he added

Your support has made this campaign more about montana than interests out of state Check out the article for more on the U.S Senate campaign Montanans built.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on May 23, 2006 at 10:26 am
Comments 1 Comment Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

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Lee Newspapers Profile Tester

Jennifer McKee of the Montana Lee State Bureau took some time to interview Jon and write about the campaign awhile back and her candidate profile appeared in Lee Newspapers today

The piece is a straightforward and sometimes surprising glimpse inside the day to day life of the Tester family and the campaign for the U S Senate

> Unseating Burns is not the only reason he's running for Senate, Tester said It's not even one of the top reasons
>
> Tester is running because Big Sandy public schools used to need three bus routes to pick up all the farm kids, now the farm kids barely fill up one Working families used to have a shot at being middle class, now they're treading water
>
> Tester is running because a couple of weeks ago a single mom called him up "She's a Big Sandy girl," he said Her daughter survived childhood brain cancer and now requires shots that cost $6,400 a year
>
> Insurance doesn't cover it.
>
> "When I think about prescription drugs, those are the kinds of faces that pop into my mind," said Tester

Check out the Billings Gazette for the complete story The Gazette also has Jon's answers to key personal and political issues

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on May 21, 2006 at 10:08 pm
Comments None Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

Supporters

Jon is proud to have the vocal support of many elected officials across Montana, including former U S Senator John Melcher, former State Auditor Mark O'Keefe, Public Service Commissioners Greg Jergeson and Bob Raney, and 46 state legislators over half of the Democratic delegation to the Montana Legislature

> "Jon Tester is Montana from the ground up," said a letter from Melcher read at a Democratic Party dinner in Great Falls Saturday night and released Tuesday "I like him, I support him I'm voting Tester I ask you to support him too "
>
> Summing up his endorsements, Tester said, "These are folks I've worked with at the Capitol in Helena and listened to voters with in every corner of the state Their help demonstrates our broad support and that we're gaining momentum "

Check out the Helena Independent Record for the full story on our endorsements

You can also visit the campaign website to see the list.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on May 17, 2006 at 11:09 am
Comments None Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

Help Jon Make the Cut

Watch our new television ad, "Creating a Buzz"

[Windows Media Player]

[QuickTime]

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on May 09, 2006 at 12:58 pm
Comments 5 Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

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Tester Debates the Issues

There have been a number of vigorous debates around the state in recent weeks, and Jon has impressed the audience at all of them Here are some excerpts from the most recent debate in Helena

> "The audience also broke into clapping once when Tester's wife Sharla stood up, holding their 21 month old granddaughter, Kilikina
>
> 'That's my grand daughter,' Tester said 'That's why I'm running for the U S Senate '"
> Jennifer McKee, Lee State Bureau
>
> "Democratic Senate hopeful Jon Tester questioned the ethics of the other leading candidate for his party's nomination, saying in a debate Thursday he is the only one who could go 'belly to belly' on the issue against Republican incumbent Sen Conrad Burns "
> Matt Gouras, Associated Press

Be sure to turn out for the debate in Billings tomorrow, sponsored by the Billings Gazette and MSU Billings The event is Tuesday, May 9, 2006 at 7 30 p m at the Petro Theater on the campus of MSU-Billings

If you can't make it to Billings, Yellowstone Public Radio will carry the debate live

You can also hear the May 4 Helena Independent Record Debate and the Health Montana Debate archived on Yellowstone Public Radio

Swing by or tune in and show your support for Jon Tester!

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on May 08, 2006 at 6:22 pm
Comments 1 Comment Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

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Planting Season

After a busy month on the campaign trail and some spring rain Jon is home, working on the family farm in Big Sandy

This week, Jon is working the fields getting the ground ready for seeding. They had some rain Wednesday night, so Jon got in some calls to supporters this morning before starting work. If the weather holds out, Jon and Sharla plan to begin planting tomorrow

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Apr 13, 2006 at 7:33 pm
Comments 7 Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

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tester time!

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- Spun and Spinning
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- Swing State Project
- The Last Best Place
- The Yardstick
- Western Democrat
- Wulfgar

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Ravalli Democrats Welcome Tester

Ravalli JJ

Jon was the keynote speaker at the Jefferson Jackson dinner in Hamilton this weekend In a mostly rural county that has long been considered a Republican stronghold, 150 people showed up to hear Jon and voice their support for Montana Democrats

Earlier in the day Jon met with a smaller group of Bitterroot valley residents in a town hall meeting to answer questions about issues important to them Jon spoke to the group about farming, ranching, and the future of Montana The group was most concerned about the future of family farm agriculture, energy independence, the cost of the war in Iraq, and economic development in Montana

The Ravalli Republic has the story on the town hall meeting on their website

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Apr 10, 2006 at 8 36 pm
Comments None | Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

Newsweek: Burns "Under Scrutiny"

Newsweek features an article on the Abramoff investigations following DeLay's decision to not seek re election this fall Their sources indicate the fallout is spreading and Conrad Burns is at the top of the list

> But after DeLay, Burns may be the ripest target for Democrats, who dream of winning six seats and regaining the Senate Burns took more money from Abramoff and his clients than any other member of Congress nearly $150,000, according to Federal Election Commission records A lawyer familiar with the investigation, who declined to be named discussing an ongoing case, confirms that Burns is under scrutiny for his connections to Abramoff in particular, whether he and his staff promoted legislation to help Abramoff's clients in exchange for campaign contributions or gifts

And Republicans are concerned They've thrown their weight behind Burns, despite a challenge in the primary from State Senate Minority Leader Bob Keenan Republican Chair Chuck Denowh admits the Abramoff affair has gained traction, hurting Senator Burns' character with voters

> "One of his characteristics was his trustworthiness and integrity," says Chuck Denowh, executive director of the Montana Republican Party The Abramoff chatter "got people questioning that"

Interesting that Denowh uses past tense in describing Burns' trustworthiness and integrity

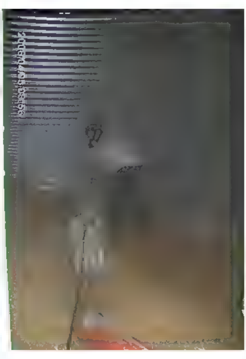
Ready for a Senator you can trust? Join the campaign today.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Apr 10, 2006 at 3 24 pm
Comments None | Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

Springtime on the Hi Line

When Jon isn't talking to voters or in the office working on the campaign, he takes care of his day job running the family farm outside of Big Sandy, MT

Yesterday Jon was hard at work loading grain and lentils into the semi to go to the cleaner



To load up the truck, Jon shovels the grain from the bin to the auger

Jon Tester Auger

The auger moves Jon's product from the bin to the semi In this shot, Jon is loading lentils into the truck.

Once the truck is loaded, Jon takes the product to be cleaned Yesterday he drove this load to Havre, MT

You'll notice that it's pretty gray outside in these shots It's a perfect time for rain as Jon is looking to plant his crops in the coming weeks We'll keep you posted as Jon plants on the farm and works with the grassroots on the campaign trail

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Apr 06, 2006 at 10 17 am
Comments 1 Comment | Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

Equal Health Care for All Montanans

Women deserve the right to full health care coverage, just like men

When I saw an opportunity to bring equality and fairness to women, I didn't sit back and wait - I took action. Every family should have the basic right to make decisions about their future, and every woman should have access to the prescriptions she needs It's that simple

NARAL Pro Choice Montana called my request "a courageous stand"

Here's what happened Last November, I asked Montana Attorney General Mike McGrath to evaluate and render an opinion on insurance coverage for contraception, especially when those plans cover Viagra and other prescriptions for men

Attorney General McGrath today agreed, saying that equality for women matters

> "As with Title VII, Montana case law demonstrates that because pregnancy is unique to women, differential treatment related to pregnancy and related medical conditions such as gynecological visits, is discrimination on the basis of sex, and is prohibited"

[Click here to read the the press release.]
[Click here to read the whole Attorney General's opinion.]

Equality also begins with respect and open, accountable government When politicians cut back room deals and close out the public interest, everyone on the outside loses We've all heard the stories about Conrad Burns' dealings with lobbyists like Jack Abramoff closing the door to Montanans in favor of the special interests

You and I both know that Burns is no friend when it comes to women's issues.

That's why I'm running for the U S Senate to represent the needs of all Montanans, not the special interests and corporate lobbyists

That's the kind of leadership I will bring to Washington fighting and winning on the issues that matter most to us as Montanans

I have a proven record of taking action for Montanans supporting families, delivering prescription drugs for seniors, a better funding plan for our schools, a comprehensive energy strategy to cut our addiction to foreign oil, and economic incentives to create jobs in every corner of Montana

Can I count on you to help me fight to make a difference for women and families all across this nation? Today, we need your help to hit our fundraising target before the March 31 deadline I need you to volunteer and a make a contribution of $50, $100, $250 or whatever you can today

http://www.testerforsenate.com/contribute/

Together we can send Conrad Burns home and restore real family values in Washington

Thank you for all that you do,

Jon Tester

Posted by **Jon Tester** on Mar 28, 2006 at 3 28 pm
Comments None | Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

U of M Crowd Welcomes Tester

Jon was in Missoula last night for a fundraiser and a meeting with students at the University of Montana New West has the story Jon spoke with a large, enthusiastic crowd for over an hour

And surveys still say Conrad Burns is still the most unpopular senator in the country. New Survey USA numbers put Burns at 38% Conrad Burns has the lowest approval rating and the lowest net approval rating in the country Watch the numbers take a nosedive at Survey USA's website.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Mar 24, 2006 at 1 14 pm
Comments None | Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

Energizing the Netroots

The netroots have been an important part of the Tester campaign from the beginning Since Jon's filing, blogs have highlighted the race, responding to Jon's call for real representation in Washington, D C

Bob Brigham at MyDD recently wrote about the race calling it "the perfect opportunity" for the netroots to display their strength His post highlights Jon's record of accomplishment and the unique opportunity we have here in Montana to change the face of Washington, D C

Swing by MyDD for the whole story

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Mar 23, 2006 at 11 43 am
Comments None | Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

Mailbag

Today's Helena IR features a letter to the editor from Neal Ullman From the letter

> As a farmer, former teacher, and president of the Montana Senate, Jon is one of few people who wake up everyday wondering what they can do better to help their family, community, and state Jon's dedication to his family and state are the values we need representing us in Washington As scandal after scandal boils out of Washington, it's more and more clear that we need a fresh perspective to end the petty bickering

To write your own letter to the editor, you can consult the Montana Democratic Party website for newspaper contact information and formatting suggestions

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Mar 22, 2006 at 6 31 pm
Comments None | Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

Tester Officially Files for U.S. Senate

Yesterday, Jon Tester officially filed for U S Senate, calling for an end to Conrad Burns' "reign of corruption"

Jon submitted the necessary paperwork and spoke with reporters about the race More details about the filing are available in press coverage of the event

Montana's News Station

NewWest

Billings Gazette

Great Falls Tribune

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Mar 22, 2006 at 10 20 am
Comments None | Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

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- Secular Franciscan Life
- Speedkill
- Spun and Spinning
- SW Montana Dem
- Swing State Project
- The Last Best Place
- The Yardstick
- Western Democrat
- Wulfgar

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Sirota, "It's Tester Time"

Sirota,

> Tonight is a terrible night for Conrad Burns, not only because one of his primary challengers got almost a quarter of GOP votes, but because Democrats now have Jon Tester carrying the flag against him. Burns barely eeked out a victory last time against Schweitzer - then an unknown first time candidate. Now, severely damaged by his connections to high profile corruption scandals, Burns is facing a Schweitzer style populist - but one who is better known than Schweitzer was during his dark horse Senate bid in 2000. It's Tester Time - and that means Burns' days in the Senate are numbered.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun. 07, 2006 at 12:04 am
Comments 13 Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

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Tester Victorious

Edit, as of this post, AP had not called the race. Bad intel.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun. 06, 2006 at 10:57 pm
Comments 5 Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

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Live from Tester HQ Part III

10:00 p.m.

We need some new numbers here still, especially Cascade and Yellowstone.

But

Missoula Co

Tester, 11,380 Morrison, 3047

That is 4000 more than voted in 2004 Primary for Governor.

10:00 news on now

10:08 p.m.

New Numbers

Flathead
Tester 1362
Morrison 1192 80% in

Yellowstone
Tester 6150
Morrison 5330

Gallatin
Tester 943
Morrison 429

10:13 p.m.

Jeff Ament is on KPAX (Montana's News Station) at the election night event here in Missoula.

We're still waiting for results but VERY pleased. Rumor is that they are starting the count over in Cascade County.

10:22 p.m.

Just heard Michelle Reinhart won. Congrats - another young democrat in the legislature.

10:26 p.m.

Numbers from the Hi Line

Hill County
Tester 488
Morrison 88

Liberty County
Tester 175
Morrison 19

10:28 p.m.

Blaine County
Tester 778
Morrison 265

10:30 p.m.

Morrison is on KPAX now.

10:32 p.m.

AP has not called the race, John Morrison is delivering a stand up unity speech about the important issues facing Montana, including the culture of corruption surrounding Conrad Burns.

10:36 p.m.

I am signing off from here. Results will not update for a while.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun. 06, 2006 at 9:59 pm
Comments 14 Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

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Live from Tester HQ Part II

9:00 p.m.
Results from Cascade County
Tester 1295, Morrison 695 (absentees)

9:03 p.m.
Results from Cascade County
Tester 4779, Morrison 2611

9:05 p.m.
Results from Yellowstone County
Tester 2349, Morrison 2207

9:16 p.m.
Evidently the Cascade county number above is incorrect.

9:19 p.m.
Results from Missoula County
Tester 4199, Morrison 1236 (29 of 101 precincts)

9:21 p.m.
Now for some not as good news, but still early.

Results from Silver Bow County
Tester 455, Morrison 786

Results from Deer Lodge County
Tester 422, Morrison 695

9:37 p.m.

Results from Flathead County
Tester 330, Morrison 311

Results from Lewis and Clark County
Tester 3846, Morrison 1209

NOTE: all of these are preliminary unless otherwise noted.

9:42 p.m.
Results from Silver Bow County
Tester 809, Morrison 1241

9:43 p.m.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun. 06, 2006 at 9:01 pm
Comments 12 Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

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Live from Tester HQ

8:23 p.m.
We're on the ground in Missoula. Lots of energy and good results from absentees coming in from Billings. Check out the Billings Gazette for these numbers.

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Results from Big Horn County: Tester 21, Morrison 12

8:55 p.m.
Our early total: Tester 5770 (65%), Morrison 2978 (33%), Richards 106 (1%), Marcure 38 (0%), Candee 36 (0%)

Starting a new thread. Cautiously optimistic here.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun. 06, 2006 at 8:24 pm
Comments 5 Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

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Liveblogging Tonight at TesterTime

I'll be live-blogging results here tonight at TesterTime. Check back for results, photos, and updates from the party at the Holiday Inn Parkside in Missoula, MT.

Note that I will NOT be the spokesperson for the Tester campaign tonight. Official statements will be clearly marked as such.

Our next update will be after the polls close at around 8:00 p.m. MDT. Absentee numbers should be released soon after that.

For now, back to GOTV calls.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun. 06, 2006 at 9:51 am
Comments 8 Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

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Vote Today

Polls in Montana are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For more information about the election or to find your polling place contact your county election administrator. Don't hesitate to call us at (406) 454-2006 or (406) 449-0117 if you need help getting out to vote.

Election results will be available online this evening. I would suggest checking out the following resources:

Great Falls Tribune

Billings Gazette

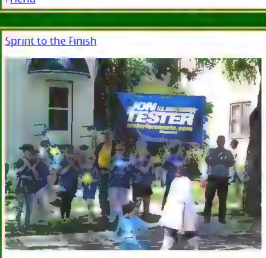
Bozeman Chronicle

Montana's News Station

Montana Secretary of State

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun. 06, 2006 at 9:39 am
Comments None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Sprint to the Finish



Jon kicked off a tour of the state in Helena today where he stopped by the Farmer's Market and cheered for the runners in the Governor's Cup. We had a great group of volunteers and a tremendous response to Jon's presence at the event.

Stay tuned for more updates from the road as we close in on Election Day.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun. 03, 2006 at 9:48 pm
Comments 2 Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

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Article **Poll: Tester, Morrison Deadlocked** Will Be Send To Your Friend

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Article **Tester Debates the Issues** Will Be Send To Your Friend

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Article **Help Jon Make the Cut** Will Be Send To Your Friend

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Article **Lee Newspapers Profile Tester** Will Be Send To Your Friend

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Article **More Montana** Will Be Send To Your Friend

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The Leadership Deficit in Washington

You can tell its getting toward the end of the quarter with as busy as everyone in the campaign is

This afternoon, Jon sent a message to people on our campaign email list. He wrote about how Washington is facing two serious deficits right now, the money deficit and the leadership deficit.

Here are some of my favorite passages

> What are they thinking in Washington?
>
> As America begins to deal with the economic effects of Hurricane Katrina and prepares to deal with oncoming Hurricane Rita, we're hobbled by the impact of four years of binge spending and tax cuts in Washington, D C
>
> And here comes the hangover
>
> [ ]
>
> Too few people in Washington of either party are willing to state the obvious that in order to pay for this natural disaster, we just might have to get our fiscal house in order, live within our means, invest in our kids and our future, and stop giving away the treasury
>
> It's this sort of behavior that makes all of us occasionally wish Washington would just use a little bit of good old fashioned Montana common sense But if wishes were horses, beggars would ride
>
> The government in Washington may not get it at times, but it's our government. It's our responsibility to fix it. And it's our responsibility to do what they won't to roll up our sleeves, work together and get the job done Like we did in the 2005 Legislature we balanced the budget, lived within our means, improved health care, boosted funding for education, and eliminated property taxes for 13,000 small and Main Street businesses
>
> That's getting the job done

Help us get the job done Don't forget, you still have the opportunity to donate and receive one of the limited Pearl Jam/Jon Tester posters

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Sep 22, 2005 at 5 32 pm
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

3 Comments »

1. Excellent comment. It is really important for us to "keep stating the obvious" in the face of a lot of distortion and misinformation

   Comment by Montana September 23, 2005 @ 11.50 am

2. "The government in Washington may not get it at times, but it's our government. It's our responsibility to fix it. And it's our responsibility to do what they won't to roll up our sleeves, work together and get the job done "

   We need to spread that word far and wide

   Comment by grannyinsanity September 27, 2005 @ 5.40 pm

3. [ ] The issues that matter to the Montanans I know are these the sinking American economy and rising American debt; a failed war where brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, friends and neighbors have died, corruption so complete that some of Conrad's buddies had menus for lobbyists to choose from, and above all else, the Montanans that I know care about having a few honest faces in Washington, D C a few folks that might actually represent the little guy's interest instead of the highest paid interest. Jon Tester has Taken stands on the issues that really matter Conrad Burn's corruption, Conrad Burns' war, and Conrad Burns' debt. [ ]

   Pingback by Left in the West » Blog Archive » Another Senator From Missouri or the District of Columbia June 8, 2006 @ 2.57 pm

TrackBack URI

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Article **Setting the Record Straight** Will Be Send To Your Friend

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Article **Supporters** Will Be Send To Your Friend

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Fighting for Choice...and Responsibility

[Jon sent the following email to members of the campaign earlier this morning.]

Over the last five years, radical activists have been waging a stealth campaign targeting reproductive freedom and the choice they are targeting is whether Americans should be able to plan their families

We're not talking about access to abortion We're talking about access to contraception

Contraception shouldn't be a controversial issue It prevents unintended pregnancies and prevents abortions

Indeed, it's the very medical breakthrough that has made widespread responsible family planning possible

It wasn't until the mid 1960s that women had legal access to contraception Now women and families need to have access to contraception in health coverage

Yet today there is a quiet war being waged regarding access to contraception And here in Montana, most insurance plans don't cover birth control, even when they cover Viagra

I don't think that's right.

I have requested a legal opinion from the Attorney General of Montana to clarify whether insurance companies that provide prescription drug coverage must also, by law, cover contraception

I think we have a good case and that we'll prevail on this issue The law is on our side That's good

This is an issue of fairness and basic health for Montanans It also gets to the heart of Montana values freedom, choice, and responsibility This is about making sure women and families have access to health coverage and Montanans can make their own decisions

That means that soon, in Montana, women and families will have the insurance coverage they need and deserve

That's the sort of thing we should all be able to agree on

Sincerely,

Jon Tester

PS Help us bring Montana values to Washington by forwarding this email to your friends and family, and asking them to join the campaign at http://www.testerforsenate.com/join/ Or make a financial contribution at: http://www.testerforsenate.com/contribute/

Posted by **Jon Tester** on Nov 04, 2005 at 11 00 am
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

2 Comments »

1. [ ] Wulfgar wrote a rather long post yesterday about the need for communities to support expenses related to having babies or not. The "or not" is expressed in an endorsement of John Tester's missive on the need for insurance companies that provide prescription drug coverage to cover birth control by legislative mandate [ ]

   Pingback by Dave Budge .com » Blog Archive » Sizing Up John Tester — November 5, 2005 @ 1:01 pm

2. Terrific Blog you have Peace Out.
   TreeFrog

   Comment by TreeFrog — February 21, 2006 @ 9.44 pm

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Article **A New Day in Montana** Will Be Send To Your Friend

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Welcome Aboard!

My friend Rob, known better to the Montana blogging world as Wulfgar!, endorsed Jon today

He had this to say:

> I am anti-DC establishment, and become more so by the day. This bunch of politicking losers are the same bunch who handed the Senate to the Republicans in the first place…, specifically because they've lost touch with the people who vote. Jon rightly points out that the Pearl Jam concert wasn't a "stunt", it was friends being friends. If the Republicans want to match Jon's friends against Conrad's friends, then we got us a winner, here

> [...]

> Jon Tester understands that Montanans actually value our state, our relationships, and our loyalties

> [...]

> I don't care who thinks a candidate is just spiffy, half as much as I want insight into that candidates beliefs and loyalties. I want a candidate loyal to Montana, to Montanans, his friends and his neighbors. Do we elect Senators to represent establishment groups and interest parties, or to represent us? I think the latter. And that's why I can finally, strongly, endorse Jon Tester for the US Senate

Thanks, Rob. I'm glad to have you on board.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Oct. 10, 2005 at 4:33 pm
Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

1 Comment »

1. It is great to have a site for Senator Tester but I am disappointed in the brevity with regards to issues? What are Senator Tester's stand on such matters as the Iraqi War?

   Comment by John Andrechak — October 11, 2005 @ 12:53 pm

TrackBack URI

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Article **Welcome Aboard!** Will Be Send To Your Friend

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Your Remarks:

Friend's Name: *

Friend's E-Mail: *

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Article **Trusting Big Sandy Over Washington, D.C.** Will Be Send To Your Friend

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You Did It — Thank You

[Jon Tester sent the following email to members of the campaign today. To sign up to receive updates from the campaign, click here.]

Your response — and the result of your efforts — is amazing.

At the end of June, Montanans for Tester had raised just over $55,000 and had just a few hundred known supporters around the state.

The pundits wondered if we could win this race.

You've shown them the answer is YES — and in just three short months you have built a statewide campaign strong enough to **win the Democratic primary in June** and **defeat Conrad Burns next November**.

We're still tallying the final numbers of our fundraising efforts. If you made a financial contribution this quarter, **I want to thank you** — we know we've exceeded our internal goals thanks to your incredible efforts.

But all of you have played a critical role in getting us to where we are—and I am deeply grateful for every person's efforts. Whether by joining this email list, recruiting your friends, going to the Pearl Jam show in Missoula, or volunteering your time or giving your hard earned money, **you have been the heart and soul and reason for our campaign's success so far.** None of this would be possible without you.

We'll be reporting the final fundraising numbers to the FEC in a few weeks—but I didn't want to wait to express my deepest appreciation for everything everyone has done. We've gotten to this incredible place because of your efforts, and next November we'll send Montana values to Washington, D.C. the same way — by **working together**.

Thank you for everything you do,

Jon Tester

Posted by **Guest Writer** on Oct. 01, 2005 at 9:45 am
Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

No Comments »

No comments yet.

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Article **You Did It – Thank You** Will Be Send To Your Friend

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Commenter Matching Fund

Bill Section 147, a commenter at Daily Kos, has offered to match up to 20 individual $10 contributions to this campaign. If you've thought about giving a little and want it to count double, that's too good of an offer to refuse.

See his comment for details

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Sep. 30, 2005 at 2:15 pm
Comments Grow the Campaign – Forward This to a Friend

No Comments »

No comments yet.

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Article **The Road from Big Sandy to Washington, D.C.** Will Be Send To Your Friend

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Homecoming on Saturday

Jon was in Missoula on Saturday for the Homecoming Parade. Jess Grennan, our staffer who was there with him, has promised a report and pictures later today. Look forward to it.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Oct. 03, 2005 at 9:47 am
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

No Comments »

No comments yet.

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Article **COOL: Getting the Job Done** Will Be Send To Your Friend

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Friend's Name: *

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Article **Already Going Well** Will Be Send To Your Friend

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Friend's E-Mail: *

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Article **Tester Beats Morrison, Ties Against Burns** Will Be Send To Your Friend

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Your E-Mail: *

Your Remarks:

Friend's Name: *

Friend's E-Mail: *

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Already Going Well

~~11:00 AM~~ 12:45 PM
~~$645.02~~ $2,075.03
~~11 Donors~~ 17 Donors

Well, Jon asked and the grassroots are already answering. As of 11 00 AM, we're at over $600 raised and the message has only been out for an hour

Thanks everyone and please, keep it coming.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Dec 07, 2005 at 11 58 am
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

1 Comment »

1. Get the Kos blog endorsement on the blog. Netroots supporters from around the country may start taking a look at Jon because of it, and you can benefit from any help Markos can give you

   Comment by Ken Camp — December 14, 2005 @ 7 58 pm

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Article **No on Alito** Will Be Send To Your Friend

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Recount Afoot Serves as a Reminder

The recount beginning today in Missoula is a reminder of just how much of a difference voting can make. The second and third place finishers are separated by a mere two votes. In the campaign world, that's knocking an extra 50 doors, making an extra 100 phone calls, recruiting an extra three volunteers, raising an extra $50. That little of a commitment really can make all of the difference between defeat and victory in Montana.

Just last year, Jeanne Windham squeaked to victory in Lake County after an apparent tie became a defeat for Constitutionalist Rick Jore. In 2000, the margin in the Democratic primary for Superintendent of Public Instruction was less than 100 votes out of 91,819 cast. Similar stories replay every year at every level of Montana politics — local, legislative, and statewide.

The Missoulian has more on the race.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Sep. 23, 2005 at 10:48 am
Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

No Comments »

No comments yet.

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Article **Recount Afoot Serves as a Reminder** Will Be Send To Your Friend

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Article **Web Ad Holds Burns' Feet to the Fire** Will Be Send To Your Friend

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Your Remarks:

Friend's Name: *

Friend's E-Mail: *

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Article **Jon's Interview at MyDD** Will Be Send To Your Friend

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Article **99 Days to Victory** Will Be Send To Your Friend

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Article **Energizing the Netroots** Will Be Send To Your Friend

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Tester Victorious

Edit, as of this post, AP had not called the race Bad intel

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun 06, 2006 at 10:57 pm
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

6 Comments »

1. yahoo!

   Comment by grace — June 6, 2006 @ 11:02 pm

2. Awesome! Whatever you Montana Democrats are drinking, bottle some up and send it to Boise

   Congrats to everyone Burns doens't stand a chance against the populist, progressive Mr Tester

   Comment by Julie Fanselow — June 6, 2006 @ 11:20 pm

3. LET'S GO LET'S GO!
   I LOVE THIS GUY I AM SO TIRED OF BEING ASHAMED OF OUR"REPRESENTATION" I PROMISED MY LITTLE 87 YR OLD MOM THAT WE COULD FIND A WAY TO BRING HUMANITY BACK TO MONTANA & US POLITICS SHE PASSED AWAY THIS SPRING, BUT YOU WILL HELP ME KEEP MY PROMISE BLESS YOU AND YIPPEEEE, S GUTOWSKI

   Comment by SUSAN GUTOWSKI — June 7, 2006 @ 3:01 am

4. Absolutely incredible victory Keep the message the same, don't waiver, and give Conrad the beat down of a lifetime
   JPH

   Comment by Jason P Houser — June 7, 2006 @ 9:16 am

5. Congratulations Jon!
   I will help get you elected Senator in the fall

   I was offended by Sen Elizabeth Dole's comments as quoted in this morning's Bozeman Chronicle, that you are a puppet of liberal special interests (???) and do not represent mainstream values of Montanans What a crust!! She insulted this Montana voter big time My feeling is that she had this statement prepared well ahead of time and was ready to pounce on whomever was elected among the Democrats Who's pulling her strings, anyway?
   I heartily agree with you that Gay Marriage is a smokescreen thrown up by the Bushites to distract us from the real issues Thanks for voicing that opinion
   I will put some energy behind getting you elected and will look forward to hearing from your campaign I'm a senior with less energy than when I was young activist but can do something.
   Best wishes,
   Marilyn Kjellen-Rogers
   Bozeman

   Comment by Marilyn Kjellen-Rogers — June 8, 2006 @ 7:39 pm

6. I can hardly wait for November when the only thing Conrad will see is your tail lights Go Jon!

   Comment by Don Herzog — June 13, 2006 @ 10:41 am

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Live from Tester HQ Part III

10:00 p.m.

We need some new numbers here still, especially Cascade and Yellowstone

But

Missoula Co

Tester, 11,380 Morrison, 3047

That is 4000 more than voted in 2004 Primary for Governor

10:00 news on now

10:08 p.m.

New Numbers

Flathead
Tester 1362
Morrison 1192 80% in

Yellowstone
Tester 6150
Morrison 5330

Gallatin
Tester 943
Morrison 429

10:13 p.m.

Jeff Ament is on KPAX (Montana's News Station) at the election night event here in Missoula

We're still waiting for results but VERY pleased. Rumor is that they are starting the count over in Cascade County

10:22 p.m.

Just heard Michelle Reinhart won. Congrats another young democrat in the legislature

10:26 p.m.

Numbers from the Hi Line

Hill County
Tester 488
Morrison 88

Liberty County
Tester 175
Morrison 19

10:28 p.m.

Blaine County
Tester 778
Morrison 265

10:30 p.m.

Morrison is on KPAX now

10:32 p.m.

AP has not called the race, John Morrison is delivering a stand up unity speech about the important issues facing Montana, including the culture of corruption surrounding Conrad Burns

10:36 p.m.

I am signing off from here. Results will not update for a while

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun 06, 2006 at 9:59 pm
Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

14 Comments »

1. Gazette's latest #s

   With 288 of 867 precints in
   Tester 28,657 62.7%
   Morrison 15,932 34.86%

   Comment by Don Pogreba — June 6, 2006 @ 10:02 pm

2. FINAL for Carter Co. TESTER 24 Morrison 19
   Source: SOS website

   Comment by jhwygirl — June 6, 2006 @ 10:17 pm

3. With 359/867
   T 33,112 62.06
   M 18,814 35.26

   Comment by INBrian — June 6, 2006 @ 10:19 pm

4. Just confirmed on the news: restarting the count in Cascade Co

   Comment by Don Pogreba — June 6, 2006 @ 10:23 pm

5. Stranger things may have happened than a Morrison win at this point, but I think this thing is over!

   Comment by Chris O — June 6, 2006 @ 10:26 pm

6. FINAL for McCone Co. TESTER 106 Morrison 70
   Source: SOS website

   KECI just did an interview with a Morrison guy. He's clearly SHOCKED>>>

   Comment by jhwygirl — June 6, 2006 @ 10:31 pm

7. Congratulations!!!!!!!!

   You can rest a bit...then it's time to get to work.

   Comment by Don Pogreba — June 6, 2006 @ 10:43 pm

8. Tester wins! AP calls. Goodnight!

   Comment by INBrian — June 6, 2006 @ 10:46 pm

9. Congratulations Jon and the Tester Campaign! I am sending you, "Foxes in the Hen House, How the Republicans stole the South ." It's a great read and has the plan to take back the so called "conservative vote", not just in the South but across the country. What a great victory, Burns is trembling tonight!

   Comment by Eric Newman — June 6, 2006 @ 10:49 pm

10. CONGRATULATIONS ANDY!

    Comment by hit_escape — June 6, 2006 @ 11:14 pm

11. Hey Jon! congratulations! I guess this means you'll have less time to practice trumpet, no?
    I'll be voting for you from overseas. I'm teaching in Bangkok Thailand at an international school and enjoying it very much. When you unseat Conrad Burns you'll have answered many a prayer. My best to you and your family and much good luck in the future

    sincerely,
    Tom

    Comment by Tom Myers — June 6, 2006 @ 11:37 pm

12. Congratulations

    It is my hope (our hope?) that as the campaign intensifies you will find ways to avoid the rhetoric of ideology that Sen. Burns is already slinging your way. We do not need to be told what's wrong with him. I believe we already sense deeply that it is time for a change, that we can see through rhetoric. And so appeal to our common sense. Your staying away from flailing away at Morrison's lapses was wise, effective, and honorable.

    Well, thank you for running and let us carry you along.

    Lawrence Pray
    Big Timber

    Comment by Lawrence Pray — June 7, 2006 @ 11:48 am

13. Congratulations to Jon! I am updating my anti Burns site (www.defeatconradburns) right now. I will also be linking to this site.

    Good luck in the fall! Let's get Conrad out!!!!

    Comment by DefeatConradBurns — June 7, 2006 @ 2:49 pm

14. Congratulations Sen. Tester. I know Burns can be beat in Nov.

    Comment by Maxine S. Lane — June 10, 2006 @ 12:52 pm

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Sirota, "It's Tester Time"

Sirota,

> Tonight is a terrible night for Conrad Burns, not only because one of his primary challengers got almost a quarter of GOP votes, but because Democrats now have Jon Tester carrying the flag against him. Burns barely eeked out a victory last time against Schweitzer - then an unknown first time candidate. Now, severely damaged by his connections to high profile corruption scandals, Burns is facing a Schweitzer style populist - but one who is better known than Schweitzer was during his dark horse Senate bid in 2000. It's Tester Time - and that means Burns' days in the Senate are numbered.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun. 07, 2006 at 12:04 am
Comments - Grow the Campaign - Forward This to a Friend

17 Comments »

1. We could tell the landslide was coming by the positive responses we got in our Honk and Wave today in Helena! There wasn't anybody honking for Morrison!

   Go Jon Tester!

   Comment by Ed in Montana — June 7, 2006 @ 12:07 am

2. Congradulations! Jon Tester has perhaps the most awesome hair of any Senate candidate I've ever seen. Oh, and I hear he's an awesome Democrat as well. Cheers!

   Comment by Arlen — June 7, 2006 @ 12:58 am

3. Err, that would really read better if I could actually spell the words 'congratulations' and 'candidate.' Haha.

   Comment by Arlen — June 7, 2006 @ 12:59 am

4. Amen!

   Comment by Chris O. — June 7, 2006 @ 6:34 am

5. Good luck in November!

   Comment by John Kranick Jr. — June 7, 2006 @ 9:07 am

6. Congratulations Jon. I'm glad you won as your stand on the issues is closest to what I believe in of the Democrats running in the primary. I have tended to vote Republican before this but I want that corrupt sack of compost, Conrad Burns out of the Senate. Plus I like your stand on NAIS and you have seemed to be a bit more fiscally conservative than your opponents. Thanks for running a good clean race that hopefully will bring Democrats and Republicans alike to vote Burns out and have a breath of fresh air in the Senate.

   Comment by Mary Kirby — June 7, 2006 @ 9:47 am

7. The margin surprised a lot of people. Seems like Jon has a lot of support in rural areas giving him a great shot in the fall. Rasmussmen polling from a couple of weeks ago indicated Tester was ahead of Burns. Jon should get a 5-10% bump in the polls from this big win.

   Comment by DefeatConradBurns — June 7, 2006 @ 2:52 pm

8. Thanks Jon, for giving us a candidate to believe in. That's what did it. An honest, down to earth Montanan. Congratulations!

   Comment by Wacko Lib — June 7, 2006 @ 7:15 pm

9. A. Henry Tweeten, this is such a sweet victory for you, Montana, the Dems, and the West in general. Tester's gonna show em that we don't need DLC style faux lawyer types to win races out there. Right on!!!

   Comment by Dan Feigt — June 7, 2006 @ 8:42 pm

10. I'm still thinking about getting my own buzz cut!

    Comment by grannyinsanity — June 7, 2006 @ 10:14 pm

11. Go Tester, but we need to give generously in order to defeat Burns and his massive corporate war chest, so please visit Jons website or http://www.actblue.com/page/thebest to donate

    Comment by Rune Strom — June 8, 2006 @ 12:50 am

12. We are watching Jon Tester all the way from California and liking what we see. At last, a real person running for US Senate, instead of a rich empty suit!! I may not agree with Jon on every single issue, but over all, he is an outstanding candidate with the courage and toughness to face off with the Washington pack! Congratulations Montana.

    Comment by Mary Ann Martorana — June 11, 2006 @ 11:57 am

13. Way to Go! Jon Tester. It's time the Democrats reclaim the Senate and House from the Republican Corruption Machine. I am from California and am starting to have some hope that the rest of the country will wake up to what is happening to our wonderful country. Good luck beating Burns in the Nov. election.

    Comment by Nancy Girvin — June 12, 2006 @ 12:25 pm

14. Seems the Burns radio spot is indeed attack. But I'd like to see John answer the mistrepresentations rather than just claim it's inflamatory. I don't see the answers on his website. Time to get to the issues. I voted because I like John. Now I need to believe in John's politics.

    Comment by Tom Murray — June 13, 2006 @ 9:31 am

15. I was born in Anaconda in 1938 and though I live in Seattle I consider myself a Montanan! Jon Tester is a breath of fresh air - an honest man who will bring renewed vigor to the stagnant halls of the U. S. Senate. Though I have considered myself a Republican in past campaigns, I would vote for Jon in a heartbeat. Congratulations, Jon, and you may be expecting a little campaign financial help as well!!

    Comment by Bob Vukich — June 13, 2006 @ 11:23 pm

16. Jon,
    Congratulations on your win in the primary. I ask that you run a clean campaign and focus on the issues and Montana. I assume that since Morrison's affair was not a part of your primary campaign that you will do so.

    Comment by Travis Brownell — June 14, 2006 @ 10:18 pm

17. Just saw the first Burns attack ad. Who does he think he's kidding? If the best he can do to counter all the corruption charges is Anti-flag burning (that's a very very old turd) or the anti-gay marriage amendment that failed to pass by quite a margin including some Republicans that crossed the aisle to vote with the Democrats then he's in real trouble. If he thinks I or any other Republican with any smarts is going to vote for him on that basis then he's either really stupid or he thinks we are. I hope Jon Tester nails him on that for all it's worth. I'd do a friggin ad for Jon as a Republican for Jon Tester if I thought I was photogenic enough (which I'm not,lol). I HATE what Burns has done to the reputation of Montana. We may have had a reputation for being a bit hayseedy before but we weren't reputed across the United States for electing crooks until now. Good Grief!

    Comment by Mary Kirby — June 15, 2006 @ 10:32 am

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▼<response>
    <error>1</error>
    <message>I really need an ID for this to work</message>
  </response>
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Sprint to the Finish

Jon kicked off a tour of the state in Helena today where he stopped by the Farmer's Market and cheered for the runners in the Governor's Cup We had a great group of volunteers and a tremendous response to Jon's presence at the event.

Stay tuned for more updates from the road as we close in on Election Day

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun 03, 2006 at 9:48 pm
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

2 Comments »

1. Jon kicked butt on todays NPR Senatorial forum, and I think that I convinced a stout Republican to vote Democratic tomorrow so that he could vote for Tester and Crowley

   One mind at a time .

   Comment by grannyinsanity June 5, 2006 @ 9:56 pm

2. Go Jon, go!

   Comment by grannyinsanity June 5, 2006 @ 9:57 pm

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Supporters

Jon is proud to have the vocal support of many elected officials across Montana, including former U S Senator John Melcher, former State Auditor Mark O'Keefe, Public Service Commissioners Greg Jergeson and Bob Raney, and 46 state legislators over half of the Democratic delegation to the Montana Legislature

> "Jon Tester is Montana from the ground up," said a letter from Melcher read at a Democratic Party dinner in Great Falls Saturday night and released Tuesday "I like him, I support him I'm voting Tester I ask you to support him too "
>
> Summing up his endorsements, Tester said, "These are folks I've worked with at the Capitol in Helena and listened to voters with in every corner of the state Their help demonstrates our broad support and that we're gaining momentum "

Check out the Helena Independent Record for the full story on our endorsements

You can also visit the campaign website to see the list.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on May 17, 2006 at 11 09 am
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

No Comments »

No comments yet.

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Lee Newspapers Profile Tester

Jennifer McKee of the Montana Lee State Bureau took some time to interview Jon and write about the campaign awhile back and her candidate profile appeared in Lee Newspapers today

The piece is a straightforward and sometimes surprising glimpse inside the day-to-day life of the Tester family and the campaign for the U S Senate

> Unseating Burns is not the only reason he's running for Senate, Tester said It's not even one of the top reasons
>
> Tester is running because Big Sandy public schools used to need three bus routes to pick up all the farm kids, now the farm kids barely fill up one Working families used to have a shot at being middle class, now they're treading water
>
> Tester is running because a couple of weeks ago a single mom called him up "She's a Big Sandy girl," he said Her daughter survived childhood brain cancer and now requires shots that cost $6,400 a year
>
> Insurance doesn't cover it
>
> "When I think about prescription drugs, those are the kinds of faces that pop into my mind," said Tester

Check out the Billings Gazette for the complete story The Gazette also has Jon's answers to key personal and political issues

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on May 21, 2006 at 10:08 pm
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

No Comments »

No comments yet.

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Liveblogging Tonight at TesterTime

I'll be live-blogging results here tonight at TesterTime. Check back for results, photos, and updates from the party at the Holiday Inn Parkside in Missoula, MT

Note that I will NOT be the spokesperson for the Tester campaign tonight. Official statements will be clearly marked as such

Our next update will be after the polls close at around 8:00 p.m. MDT. Absentee numbers should be released soon after that.

For now, back to GOTV calls

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun. 06, 2006 at 9:51 am
Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

8 Comments »

1. There are at lease two Montana exiles (one of them from Big Sandy) down here in Florida that will be on the edge of their seats tonight so PLEASE update frequently!

   Comment by Clare — June 6, 2006 @ 10:35 am

2. My girlfriend and I have been supporting, and following John T. since last October, and we want to wish him the best of luck in today's primary. It's been awesome watching him become a sharpened candidate, and surge over the past few weeks. Your a candidate that we truly respect and admire. We are not Montanans, but we are proud to know that your going to be in the Senate. Good Luck John, and give Conrad hell in the general election.

   Jason P. Houser
   Jaclyn Macek

   Comment by Jason P. Houser — June 6, 2006 @ 1:41 pm

3. Hey! I was thinking of coming down, too! Will you have a wireless network up? Can I join you for a lil' live blogging fiesta?

   Comment by touchstone — June 6, 2006 @ 3:01 pm

4. Just wanted you to know we have been praying for you all day. Went around and made sure all my neighbors voted, and slipped your name in there. We send our thoughts.

   Comment by Beth Courtnage — June 6, 2006 @ 3:58 pm

5. Thanks Andy doin' up Jon's blog up right.

   Comment by Jason — June 6, 2006 @ 5:35 pm

6. I am in Wisconsin tonight and want to know how the vote is going, does anyone have some results to share?

   Comment by Eric Newman — June 6, 2006 @ 7:41 pm

7. Congrats to John Tester (I know it's premature, but I have a feeling .)

   Comment by HP — June 6, 2006 @ 8:43 pm

8. check results on www.swingstateproject.com. good luck against grumpy ole mr. burns

   Comment by Jose — June 6, 2006 @ 9:41 pm

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More Montana

More Montana

An interesting piece on campaign finance and the U S Senate race in the Missoulian today

Mike Dennison at the Lee State Bureau did some digging in campaign financial disclosure reports and found some statistics that shed light on the candidates and how they conduct their campaigns Conrad Burns has collected nearly $800,000 from corporate CEOs, and nearly $2.6 million from PACs In response, the GOP trots out the same tired line about supposed out of state funds behind Democratic campaigns

The GOP's oft repeated mantra is flat out wrong about the Tester campaign Jon Tester has raised over 63% of his funds from Montanans

> Tester has collected plenty of smaller contributions because he appeals to working folks who don't have a lot of money, said campaign manager Bill Lombardi
>
> "It's just a lot of working Montanans who support Jon Tester, a farmer and a working guy," Lombardi said
>
> The Tester campaign also has made a special effort to solicit campaign funds online, resulting in many $25 and $50 donations from Montana and all over the country, he added

Your support has made this campaign more about montana than interests out of state Check out the article for more on the U S Senate campaign Montanans built.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on May 23, 2006 at 10:26 am
Comments Grow the Campaign – Forward This to a Friend

1 Comment »

1 Just heard about Richards! Congrats to team Tester and the lefty bloggers!
People, we do have the power to change congress

Comment by Wacko Lib May 31, 2006 @ 9.33 pm

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Help Jon Make the Cut

Watch our new television ad, "Creating a Buzz"

[Windows Media Player]

[QuickTime]

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on May 09, 2006 at 12:58 pm
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

5 Comments »

1. living all my life in wisconsin, i remember watching senator mansfield on tv and thinking what a great us senator who fought for the regular person and above all had integrity—it looks like montana is ready to elect another watched the ad on the web and loved it but wouldn't be getting a buzz cut anytime soon

   Comment by timm speerschneider May 9, 2006 @ 5.33 pm

2. [...] View it here [...]

   Pingback by Intelligent Discontent » Blog Archive » See Jon Tester's New TV Ad May 9, 2006 @ 6.13 pm

3. Hey! Is that Ray Peck in that ad?

   Comment by BI W — May 10, 2006 @ 9.46 am

4. It is former repersenative and current statesman Ray Peck.

   Comment by Jess May 15, 2006 @ 8.55 pm

5. As a Montanan living in Arizona, it does me proud to see someone like John Tester stepping forward to take leadership We need some like him in Arizona!

   Comment by Jane Hetland Stevenson — May 16, 2006 @ 7.12 pm

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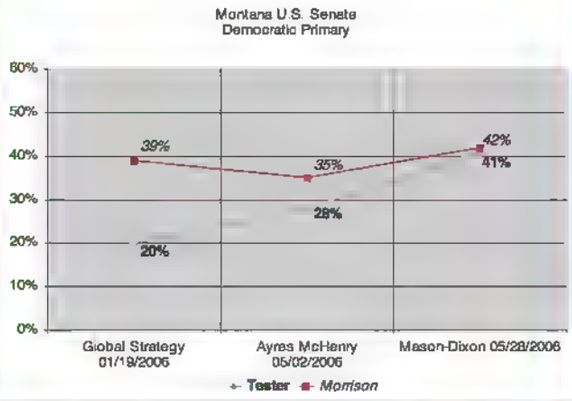
Poll. Tester, Morrison Deadlocked

Helena Independent Record: "Tester, Morrison Deadlocked"

"'The thing that strikes me is that Morrison is still better known than Tester, but Tester has a higher favorable rating with Democrats,' said Brad Coker, managing director of Mason-Dixon Polling & Research, which conducted the poll. 'Tester may have a little more upward mobility. He's pretty well-positioned for the primary. I think it's a close race, but if Tester won, it wouldn't surprise me.'"



Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on May 28, 2006 at 6:43 am
Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

2 Comments »

1. The Morrison campaign is tanking!

   If Morrison has nothing to hide, why is he hiding?
   See May 26 Great Falls Tribune article

   Comment by Jim toevs — May 28, 2006 @ 4:22 pm

2. I think Tester is the only one who man who will see that the glaciers from my days will still be around for my children to see

   Comment by Michael McCroskery — June 3, 2006 @ 11:35 pm

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Live from Tester HQ

8:23 p.m.
We're on the ground in Missoula. Lots of energy and good results from absentees coming in from Billings. Check out the Billings Gazette for these numbers

Results from Yellowstone County: Tester 969, Morrison 1140, Richards 39, Marcure 15, Candee 12. (absentee)

8:28 p.m.
Results from Ravalli County: Tester 980, Morrison 438. (early pickup + absentee)

Results from Lewis and Clark County: Tester 2757, Morrison 881. (absentees)

8:43 p.m.
Results from Missoula County: Tester 909, Morrison 347, Richards 16, Candee 8, Marcure 12 (not sure what this is)

8:50 p.m.
Results from Musselshell County: Tester 112, Morrison 140, Richards 2, Candee 1, Marcure 0

Results from Big Horn County: Tester 21, Morrison 12

8:55 p.m.
Our early total: Tester 5770 (65%), Morrison 2978 (33%), Richards 106 (1%), Marcure 38 (0%), Candee 36 (0%)

Starting a new thread. Cautiously optimistic here

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun 06, 2006 at 8:24 pm
Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

5 Comments »

1. Bill L? Where are you? Good job, man, and call me after Jon wins so I can help rid Congress of the thief!

   Comment by JimmyW — June 6, 2006 @ 8:37 pm

2. Go Andy!

   How's the party?

   Comment by jhwygirl — June 6, 2006 @ 9:00 pm

3. Keep up the great work Andy

   Comment by iNBrian — June 6, 2006 @ 9:02 pm

4. **Election Results**

   We'll keep this post updated on the election results. As of 9:06PM there is no local results, yet. They are counting absentee ballots.

   Trackback by Montana Democrat News — June 6, 2006 @ 9:06 pm

5. Looking very good indeed, Jon. Greetings from the Golden State. Mike Nolan

   Comment by Michael Nolan — June 6, 2006 @ 11:23 pm

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Ken Camp: "Jon Tester is down-to-earth and knows how to win in Republican territory."

Common Sense: Support Jon Tester for U.S. Senate

> Last Thursday night, I had the privilege of meeting Jon Tester, President of the Montana State Senate and a candidate for U.S. Senate. Jon and his wife Sharla are also organic family farmers.
>
> [...]
>
> While Jon will get elected to represent Montana in the United States Senate, Jon represents our values and will stand up for our interests. Conrad Burns only stands up for the special interests.
>
> [...]
>
> Jon is down-to-earth and knows how to win in Republican territory. He doesn't speak in long drawn-out sentences with words the average person would have to look up in a dictionary. Jon will seriously cut into Conrad Burns' base, but he needs our support.
>
> As someone who supports Jon Tester, I'm asking you to visit www.testerforsenate.com today and consider making a donation. As the father of 10 month old Connor, I'm concerned about what the future will bring. Conrad Burns will mortgage my son's future, while Jon Tester will ensure that Connor has a future. The choice for me is simple. Jon Tester must be elected to the U.S. Senate.
>
> Please also consider forwarding this post to 5 friends who share our commitment to electing progressive Democrats.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Aug. 23, 2005 at 3:28 am
Comments: Grow the Campaign – Forward This to a Friend

3 Comments »

1. Just saw the blog for the first time and was pleasantly surprised to see my post from my own blog. I'm based in Washington state, but am doing all I can to encourage folks to support Jon. Keep up the good work and let me know if I can be of further help.

   Comment by Ken Camp — August 30, 2005 @ 9:45 pm

2. This evening on a wintry night in Missoula, I had the good fortune to meet Jon Tester. My state senator, Greg Lind, had called yesterday to invite me and I jumped at the chance.

   My history in Montana politics does not run very deep. In '04 was my first experience getting involved as I hosted a house party to generate volunteers for No on I-147. That was a satisfying victory for the many of us in Montana who value clean water over short-term profit for out of state companies and leave us with long-term clean-up. Since then I've been reading a lot, but had not yet picked my next project. Meeting Jon tonight convinced me that his campaign is deserving of my support.

   Why Jon Tester? I trust him. He is geniune and down to earth. He's a farmer who has earned the trust of his predominately Republican district who strongly supported him for re-election.

   When Jon Tester talks about policy, he makes sense. And, I agree with him. He has concrete ideas for how to improve our energy approach including utilizing many Montana assets like biofuels. As well, he is more interested in supporting the everyday American than in propping up multinational corporations whose profits go to out of sight shareholders.

   With Jon Tester, I get the strong sense that he has lived a life that most of us can relate to. Talking with him, I trust that he values individuals more than the power associated with political office. Jon Tester strikes me as a down-to-earth, intelligent individual who has the talent to make positive things happen in government, rather than a politician who may have the savvy to make people feel he (or she) understands. To me that's an important difference.

   Comment by Aaron Derry — December 1, 2005 @ 11:18 pm

3. **morgage**

   nations embarked pavements!solidarity?swamped Barnum Niger arranger immunities home equity http://www.mortgage-time.info/

   Trackback by morgage — May 18, 2006 @ 2:57 pm

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Article **Ken Camp: "Jon Tester is down-to-earth and knows how to win in Republican territory."** Will Be Send To Your Friend

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Vote Today

Polls in Montana are open from 7 a m to 8 p m

For more information about the election or to find your polling place contact your county election administrator Don't hesitate to call us at (406) 454 2006 or (406) 449-0117 if you need help getting out to vote

Election results will be available online this evening, I would suggest checking out the following resources

Great Falls Tribune

Billings Gazette

Bozeman Chronicle

Montana's News Station

Montana Secretary of State

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun 06, 2006 at 9:39 am
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

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Tester Debates the Issues

There have been a number of vigorous debates around the state in recent weeks, and Jon has impressed the audience at all of them. Here are some excerpts from the most recent debate in Helena:

> "The audience also broke into clapping once when Tester's wife Sharla stood up, holding their 21 month old granddaughter, Kilikina.
>
> 'That's my grand-daughter,' Tester said. 'That's why I'm running for the U.S. Senate.'"
> Jennifer McKee, Lee State Bureau

> "Democratic Senate hopeful Jon Tester questioned the ethics of the other leading candidate for his party's nomination, saying in a debate Thursday he is the only one who could go 'belly to belly' on the issue against Republican incumbent Sen. Conrad Burns."
> Matt Gouras, Associated Press

Be sure to turn out for the debate in Billings tomorrow, sponsored by the Billings Gazette and MSU-Billings. The event is Tuesday, May 9, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. at the Petro Theater on the campus of MSU-Billings.

If you can't make it to Billings, Yellowstone Public Radio will carry the debate live.

You can also hear the May 4 Helena Independent Record Debate and the Health Montana Debate archived on Yellowstone Public Radio.

Swing by or tune in and show your support for Jon Tester!

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on May 08, 2006 at 6:22 pm
Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

1 Comment »

1. Students For Tester,
   Great job on the rally today!!! Good luck with finals. Remember to tell your friends and family back home to get out and vote for Tester.
   Go Fight Win,
   Jess

   Comment by Jess — May 8, 2006 @ 10:32 pm

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Article **Happy Thanksgiving** Will Be Send To Your Friend

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Happy Thanksgiving

I'm headed out tomorrow to do Thanksgiving Dinner with my family. Jon was on the road today to his mother's house. I'm sure many of you are doing similar travels. Be safe. Enjoy the holiday. Feel free to share your thoughts in the comments.

And make sure you make enough food for their to be leftovers. It wasn't Thanksgiving growing up if we weren't eating turkey sandwiches, turkey a la king (OK, we used the less formal, less family appropriate name at times), and other variations on the staple food for weeks. Thankfully, we didn't repeat the whole thing at Christmas, opting for pasties instead.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Nov. 23, 2005 at 6:46 pm
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

No Comments »

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Article **The Gazette Nails It: Rotten Politics at Work** Will Be Send To Your Friend

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Article **The War in Iraq** Will Be Send To Your Friend

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Article **It's Time for Conrad Burns to Resign** Will Be Send To Your Friend

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News From the Campaign Trail

We've had a flurry of activity over the past week here at the Tester campaign Bumper Stickers, campaign literature and yard signs are going out the door at record pace and volunteers around the state are calling their neighbors about the race

It's been a wildfire in the press as well These headlines indicate how momentum has shifted to Tester as the Primary Election approaches

Missoula Independent: "Photo Finish"

> "Suddenly, Tester's dark horse campaign came galloping into the light. Jon Tester, his supporters said, was the only candidate with nothing to hide, and hence was the only one who could take on and beat Burns For his part, and without going directly after Morrison's indiscretions, Tester said the same thing
>
> This week's polls show Tester has come from behind and is now running neck and neck with Morrison and, for the first time, surpassing him in fundraising. If momentum means anything, it would appear the momentum going into the election is strongly with Tester "

Forbes: "Burns Faces Questions on Ties to Lobbyist"

> "'I think, given the overall importance of ethics, if we're just looking at one issue, that Tester is better placed than Morrison,' said Craig Wilson, a Montana State University Billings political scientist who has observed Montana politics for 40 years "

Billings Gazette: "Richards: Tester is Best Choice"

> "Richards said he thinks Tester is the best Democrat to defeat U S Sen Conrad Burns, R Mont , in the November general election and that Morrison, if nominated, would lose to Burns
>
> "'My votes could make a difference,' Richards said 'I couldn't be comfortable sitting on the votes that I have if John Morrison is the nominee '"

Billings Gazette: "Morrison Refuses Tester's Invitation to Last Debate"

> "Tester, a Big Sandy rancher and president of the state Senate, challenged Morrison, a Helena attorney who is state auditor, to the debate so voters can hear the differences between the two candidates
>
> 'Montana voters deserve to hear from both of us as much as they can so they can elect the best Democrat to take on Conrad Burns this fall,' Tester said in a press release 'Voters want to hear from us directly That's the way our democracy works best '"

National Journal: "Montana, Jersey & Arizona, On The Move"

> "We've been tempted to move this race up for months, but the state's overall GOP tendencies have held us back. But not anymore, not when one of the more respected polls we've seen from the state (Mason Dixon) shows both Democrats topping Burns We used to be in the camp that said Morrison was Burns' toughest foe But we're no longer so sure of that, as Tester has shown surprising strength and put to rest rumors questioning his campaign trail discipline "

USA Today: "Montana's Burns Gets Set for Tough Race"

Missoulian: "Burns Busy with Fundraisers"

CQ: "MT Senate: Race to Take On Embattled Burns Nears Finish"

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun 01, 2006 at 12:41 pm
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

4 Comments »

1. [ ] As has become increasingly apparent, the authors of this site believe that Jon Tester should be the candidate that Democrats choose to challenge Conrad Burns in Novermber If Democrats want to send Conrad Burns back to Missouri, Jon Tester is the man to do it, and we are happy to endorse his candidacy It's telling that we haven't always been so sure I entered the primary season not knowing much about either candidate, but every day has made it more clear that Jon Tester is better on the issues and the better candidate [.]

   Pingback by Intelligent Discontent » Blog Archive » Jon Tester: The Best Choice on Tuesday (Our Endorsement) June 2, 2006 @ 3.21 am

2. I eagerly await the Tester/Burns match up in November so that Conrad can take a really long vacation doing some manufacturing on Marianas Island under the conditions he helped set up

   Comment by grannyinsanity — June 2, 2006 @ 9.18 pm

3. If Jon has earned newspaper endorsements, they ought to be prominently displayed on the website!

   Comment by Bill Dunbar — June 6, 2006 @ 11.26 am

4. Congrats! Not from your state, but sure glad to see a real guy win Good luck in November

   Comment by Lisa B — June 6, 2006 @ 11:03 pm

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The Gazette Nails it: Rotten Politics at Work

The *Billings Gazette* editorial page this morning nails it on Country of Origin Labeling. They note that virtually everything except meat has a nice label explaining where it came from, but what we do for tortilla companies, we can't do for American ranchers for some reason.

But the problem isn't necessarily the commitment of Montana or Wyoming Republicans. It's that their party leadership in Washington is so beholden to special interests that they won't even pay attention to members of their own caucus.

> Wyoming's U.S. senators, Mike Enzi and Craig Thomas, both Republicans, jointly called for conferees to block efforts to delay COOL. The Wyoming duo has introduced legislation to move up labeling implementation to January 2006. Rep. Denny Rehberg, R-Mont., also has been a vocal proponent of COOL. Likewise, U.S. Sen. Conrad Burns last week said he is "furious" with the latest delay. But these Montana and Wyoming Republicans have been unable to sway their party.
>
> In Montana, state Sen. Jon Tester, D-Big Sandy, a candidate for the Senate seat Burns now holds, was the chief sponsor of Montana COOL legislation that was signed into law to take effect next year, if the federal law doesn't.

When Democrats took back the reins of power here in Montana, it took the leadership of Jon Tester, Brian Schweitzer, and Bob Bergren one session to deliver on COOL. We've been waiting 4 years at the federal level. It looks like it might be time for change in Washington.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Nov. 02, 2005 at 10:04 am
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The War in Iraq

As many of you saw in the email, Jon laid out a policy for Iraq today A more complete description of his reasoning is available at TesterForSenate.com

Feel free to use the comments thread here to discuss the stance

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Nov 09, 2005 at 9:45 am
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

11 Comments »

1 Thank you, Mr Tester This is one of the many issues I was waiting on you to make some kind of a position statement.

While I disagree with some of your stance (I think that the "War on Terror" as we are waging it today, anyway is both short sighted and misguided, you have at least acknowledged the need to bring our troops out of Iraq This is more than the current administration is willing to do

Comment by Moorcat November 9, 2005 @ 11.38 am

2. Comment from Eastern MT Roosevelt County traditionally votes Democratic A get acquainted visit here in the next month or so for a fund raiser could be coupled with visits to the other E M centers Highlights for Roosevelt Co would to touch base with the area Dems and the Tribal leadership John Morales elected Tribal Chairman and after talking with him yesterday indications are that he would welcome a meeting and maybe offer public support. Let me know if you want to set something up best, Sam Boor

Comment by Sam Boor — November 9, 2005 @ 12:02 pm

3 Re your statement on Iraq When suggesting a pull out of troops, please put emphasis on a prior diplomatic agreement first. Always stress the importance of stability as a prerequisit for troop removal See comments by Gen Wesley Clark on the subject of diplomacy in settling the Iraq mess
Also, troop removal can be piecemeal Ex. First get them out of Kurdistan where they (the Kurds) seem to be doing quite well by themselves Thanks, Sam Boor

Comment by Sam Boor — November 9, 2005 @ 12.10 pm

4. My comment on a possible visit to Eastern MT erroneously attributed to "moorcat"
Thanks, Sam Boor

Comment by Sam Boor — November 9, 2005 @ 12.13 pm

5 [ ] Tester has come out with an official position on Iraq, which is nice for all those commenters demanding that he do so here You can comment on his position in this thread at Tester Time Generally, his stance seems reasonable to me, and his thoughts are fairly representative of my values, when it comes to Iraq In short, his position is this Iraq is too costly both to our soldiers and to our homeland security, and we need an exit strategy now [link] [.]

Pingback by Left in the West » Blog Archive » Tester on Iraq November 9, 2005 @ 12.27 pm

6. I am a Vietnam combat veteran My son is an Iraq combat veteran In both wars, failure in the leadership (of both parties) undercut the work and sacrifice of the soldiers Soldiers get little say in policy As Tennyson said, theirs is not to reason why, theirs is to do or die We are very fortunate to have men and women who will do as their country orders
But our leadership should not break faith with those marvelous men and women in the armed forces Iraq was ill conceived I think Bush rushed in with too few troops in '03 because he thought his war would get away from him if he waited to collect enough troops Two Divisions were already in the middle of deployment, the 4th ID and my son's 1st AD, but he couldn't wait for them The international climate and findings, now known to be correct, by UN inspectors that there was no evidence of a current weapons of mass distruction program, may have eventually made his war politically unwise If you give him the benefitof the doubt he may have actually believed that our troops would rapidly find the "smoking gun" on WMD that would silence his critics So he moved on the basis of using the still heated anger of US citizens over 9 11 to convince a majority (at the time) that invading Iraq was "doing something" about 9 11

It's interesting how the arguments now are so similar to vietnam, ("Well, maybe we shouldn't have gone in, but we can't just pull out now!") Remember that one, baby boomers?
It seems we are on another war of attrition as in 1960-73 We have help set up a government with honorable aims democracy But it's unlikely to survive in the near term without the military support of American troops

I know many professional soldiers who have strong misgivings about the way the "chickenhawks," many of whom have never worn our country's uniform, are directing this war
Conrad Burns is just just party line, me too faithful to the Bush administration on this war He won't even join the free thinking Republican Senators Like McCain, Hegel, Collins, et. al in asking legitimate questions about the war
We need a Senator who is not afraid to ask the tough questions, even if a Democrat occupies the White House in January 2009 We need Jon Tester in the U S Senate

Comment by Alan Johnson November 9, 2005 @ 2.13 pm

7 I don't quite know what to make of this, but it's great to see an Eastern Montanan on the lefty blogsphere

Comment by grannyinsanity November 9, 2005 @ 2.18 pm

8. Senator Tester I am pleased to see your position on withdrawing our troops from Iraq However, by continuing to supporting the so called "war on terrorism", won't we be inclined as a nation to continue to be the world's policeman? This is not a good strategy and will likely only fan the flames of those who already resent the U S foreign policy which by all appearances is intent on control of strategic resources If on the other hand we can join with the other responsible governments of the world to present a unified front in addressing the festering frustration of poverty, inequality, ignorance and perversions of any religious teaching won't we see a decline of terrorist's actions?

Wouldn't be wiser to invest the untold billions we are using for wars, ineffective intelligence, hand outs to the oil industry, and other counter productive rat holes, and instead invest it on our own security Security based on renewable energy from wind, solar, biofuels, Security based on localized and regionalized food production and processing; Security from knowing that all citizens can have access to quality medical care, And the security that comes from knowing this country respects the Constitution and the Bill of Rights which emphasizes personal freedoms and responsibilities

Comment by Jim Barngrover November 9, 2005 @ 4.47 pm

9 Right on Sen Tester As a Marine Corps Iraq Vet, I couldn't agree more with your demand that the Administration that bungled its way into this mess come up with a plan to get us out of it. They won't do it, of course, but their continuing failures in that regard will only make it more clear to the American People that it is time for these folks to go Fresh voices and fresh ideas are what is needed in Washington, and what is needed to deal with Muslim extremism Bush doesn't have the answer And neither do his yes-men in Congress like Connie Burns

Comment by Jed Fitch November 9, 2005 @ 6.11 pm

10 Politically, calling for development of an exit strategy from Iraq makes sense Going in without one has obviously been a huge mistake on the part of the administration

Morally and strategically speaking, it is the right thing to do

The war on terror is an interesting phrase, because how do we fight a war on a tactic? Yes we want to be secure from attacks on civilians So does everyone the world over

What I would like to see discussed is how we further security for civilians here and abroad I would like to see a discussion of what can be accomplished to diminish the rage against Americans for our policies abroad

As I type, somewhere in Columbia peasants are having their 5 and 10 acre farms, their livestock and their families aerial sprayed with poison paid for by US taxpayers and carried out by US contractors This is a form of chemical warfare against a civilian population to achieve a political end

Is this a policy that's likely to reduce anger against Americans?

The "war on terror" is a catchy jingoist phrase, but what does it really mean in terms of policy and practice?

"There can be no peace without justice" is another catchy jingoistic phrase, but at least I understand what it means

Comment by John Q. Citizen November 10, 2005 @ 1.57 pm

11 Retired Marine Corps Colonel John Murtha is a Democratic Congressman from Pennsylvania Murtha spent 37 years in Marine Corps, earned the Bronze Star and two purple hearts For the last thirty years he's been one of the most respected voices in Congress on military issues

Murtha has declared, "the war in Iraq is not going as advertised It's a flawed policy wrapped in illusion The United States and coalition troops have done all they can in Iraq But it's time for a change in direction It is evident that continued military action is not in the best interests of the United States of America, the Iraqi people or the Persian Gulf Region "

The newest member of Congress, Ohio Republican Jean Schmidt took the floor of the House and claimed a Marine colonel in Iraq asked her to tell Congress to stay the course, and to send Congressman Murtha a message "that "cowards cut and run, Marines never do " This kind of bravado serves to get Americans killed unnecessarily

In 1983, Ronald Reagan pulled our troops out of Lebanon after a suicide bomber killed 241 Marines in their Marine barrack. Did Reagan cut and run?

Bush and his supporters in Congress have given us a false choice of cut and run or stay the course Historian James Chase has pointed out that staying the course makes as much sense as a sailor having been blown off course, continuing to blunder aimlessly across the ocean

John Murtha didn't suggest, that we cut and run In fact, his plan was one of redeployment. He called for immediate redeployment of our troops consistent with their safety He suggests the creation of a quick reaction force in the region, and an over the horizon presence of Marines Murtha recommends that we diplomatically pursue security and stability in Iraq

Comment by Jim O'Leary November 28, 2005 @ 7.14 pm

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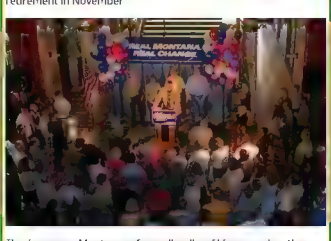
tester time!

Real Montana. Real Change.

[Bill Lombardi sent the following email to supporters today. Sign up for email updates.]

Today Montanans are uniting behind Jon Tester at rallies across the state. This morning, U.S. Senator Max Baucus, Governor Brian Schweitzer, State Auditor John Morrison, and U.S. House candidate Monica Lindeen joined Jon on stage in the State Capitol Rotunda, unified in the campaign to send Senator Burns into retirement in November.



They're joining Montanans from all walks of life, spreading the message that this election isn't about Republicans versus Democrats. **This election is about working Montanans versus insider Washington D.C.** It's about good-paying jobs, affordable health care, quality education and access to public lands. It's about affordable energy for consumers across the nation. And it's about ending the culture of corruption that infects our political process and clouds Senator Burns' judgement in the Senate.

We have tremendous momentum coming out of the Primary Election. Independent minded voters are joining our campaign because they understand Jon Tester's commitment to real change for Montana in the U.S. Senate. **Now it's time to tell your friends and family to join the campaign.**

http://www.testerforsenate.com/join

Conrad Burns and the Republicans from back East are scared by the grassroots wave they saw in the primary. D.C. Beltway Republicans are already running ads on television in Montana, trying to confuse voters and change the subject. **They're even making fun of Jon's haircut.**

But this election won't be decided by attack ads or elite Republican operatives. It will be decided by working Montanans who want a guy like them in Washington, D.C. A third generation farmer whose roots run deep here at home.

So if you can, make a contribution today, and join Governor Schweitzer, Senator Baucus, and thousands of Montanans on stage, united for real change and a real Montanan in the U.S. Senate.

http://www.testerforsenate.com/contribute

Thank you for all that you do.

Bill Lombardi

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun. 16, 2006 at 1:37 pm
Comments: 2 Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Sirota. "It's Tester Time"

Sirota.

> Tonight is a terrible night for Conrad Burns, not only because one of his primary challengers got almost a quarter of GOP votes, but because Democrats now have Jon Tester carrying the flag against him. Burns barely eeked out a victory last time against Schweitzer - then an unknown first time candidate. Now, severely damaged by his connections to high profile corruption scandals, Burns is facing a Schweitzer-style populist - but one who is better known than Schweitzer was during his dark horse Senate bid in 2000. It's Tester Time - and that means Burns' days in the Senate are numbered.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun. 07, 2006 at 12:04 am
Comments: 17 Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Tester Victorious

Edit, as of this post, AP had not called the race. Bad intel.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun. 06, 2006 at 10:57 pm
Comments: 6 Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Live from Tester HQ Part III

10:00 p.m.

We need some new numbers here still, especially Cascade and Yellowstone.

But

Missoula Co.

Tester, 11,380 Morrison, 3047

That is 4000 more than voted in 2004 Primary for Governor.

10:00 news on now.

10:08 p.m.

New Numbers

Flathead
Tester 1362
Morrison 1192 80% in

Yellowstone
Tester 6150
Morrison 5330

Gallatin
Tester 943
Morrison 429

10:13 p.m.

Jeff Ament is on KPAX (Montana's News Station) at the election night event here in Missoula.

We're still waiting for results but VERY pleased. Rumor is that they are starting the count over in Cascade County.

10:22 p.m.

Just heard Michelle Reinhart won. Congrats, another young democrat in the legislature.

10:26 p.m.

Numbers from the Hi-Line

Hill County
Tester 488
Morrison 88

Liberty County
Tester 175
Morrison 19

10:28 p.m.

Blaine County
Tester 778
Morrison 265

10:30 p.m.

Morrison is on KPAX now.

10:32 p.m.

AP has not called the race, John Morrison is delivering a stand up unity speech about the important issues facing Montana, including the culture of corruption surrounding Conrad Burns.

10:36 p.m.

I am signing off from here. Results will not update for a while.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun. 06, 2006 at 9:59 pm
Comments: 14 Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Live from Tester HQ Part II

9:00 p.m.
Results from Cascade County:
Tester 1295, Morrison 695 (absentees)

9:03 p.m.
Results from Cascade County:
Tester 4779, Morrison 2611

9:05 p.m.
Results from Yellowstone County:
Tester 2349, Morrison 2207

9:16 p.m.
Evidently the Cascade county number above is incorrect.

9:19 p.m.
Results from Missoula County:
Tester 4199, Morrison 1236 (29 of 101 precincts)

9:21 p.m.
Now for some not as good news, but still early.

Results from Silver Bow County:
Tester 455, Morrison 786

Results from Deer Lodge County:
Tester 422, Morrison 695

9:37 p.m.

Results from Flathead County:
Tester 330, Morrison 311

Results from Lewis and Clark County:
Tester 3846, Morrison 1209

NOTE: all of these are preliminary unless otherwise noted.

9:42 p.m.
Results from Silver Bow County:
Tester 809, Morrison 1241

9:43 p.m.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun. 06, 2006 at 9:01 pm
Comments: 12 Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Live from Tester HQ

8:23 p.m.
We're on the ground in Missoula. Lots of energy and good results from absentees coming in from Billings. Check out the Billings Gazette for these numbers.

Results from Yellowstone County: Tester 969, Morrison 1140, Richards 39, Marcure 15, Candee 12. (absentee)

8:28 p.m.
Results from Ravalli County: Tester 980, Morrison 438. (early pickup + absentee)

Results from Lewis and Clark County: Tester 2757, Morrison 881. (absentees)

8:43 p.m.
Results from Missoula County: Tester 909, Morrison 347, Richards 16, Candee 8, Marcure 12 (not sure what this is)

8:50 p.m.
Results from Musselshell County: Tester 112, Morrison 140, Richards 2, Candee 1, Marcure 0.

Results from Big Horn County: Tester 21, Morrison 12.

8:55 p.m.
Our early total: Tester 5770 (65%), Morrison 2978 (33%), Richards 106 (1%), Marcure 38 (0%), Candee 36 (0%)

Starting a new thread. Cautiously optimistic here.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun. 06, 2006 at 8:24 pm
Comments: 5 Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Liveblogging Tonight at TesterTime

I'll be live-blogging results here tonight at TesterTime. Check back for results, photos, and updates from the party at the Holiday Inn Parkside in Missoula, MT.

Note that I will NOT be the spokesperson for the Tester campaign tonight. Official statements will be clearly marked as such.

Our next update will be after the polls close at around 8:00 p.m. MDT. Absentee numbers should be released soon after that.

For now, back to GOTV calls.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun. 06, 2006 at 9:51 am
Comments: 8 Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Vote Today

Polls in Montana are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For more information about the election or to find your polling place contact your county election administrator. Don't hesitate to call us at (406) 454-2006 or (406) 449-0117 if you need help getting out to vote.

Election results will be available online this evening, I would suggest checking out the following resources:

Great Falls Tribune

Billings Gazette

Bozeman Chronicle

Montana's News Station

Montana Secretary of State

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun. 06, 2006 at 9:39 am
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

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Article **Springtime on the Hi-Line** Will Be Send To Your Friend

*** Required**

Your Name: *

Your E-Mail: *

Your Remarks:

Friend's Name: *

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Article **Jon Sends a "Loud and Clear" Message to the Democratic Party** Will Be Send To Your Friend

*** Required**

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Your Remarks:

Friend's Name: *

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Help Us Wrap Montana in Blue!

[Note Jon sent the following email out today To sign up to receive emails, click here]

When the Holidays are over, we'll be just six months out until Primary Day

I want to thank you for all your support already Together, we've helped move the debate forward on Iraq, on our nation's energy policy, and on the Medicare prescription drug plan And we've sent a strong message to Senator Burns that he needs to protect public access to public lands for all Montanans and that we Montanans don't want our public lands sold off

In the next six months, I'll continue to stand up for the values that we share And I'll continue to lay out my platform for working families in Montana

But to win on Primary Day, and defeat Conrad Burns in November, we need to take our campaign to the next level by ramping up our grassroots field efforts Our goal is to raise $10,000 for our field efforts, so we can "wrap Montana in blue" next year

http://www.testerforsenate.com/december/

Our support across the state is strong We have volunteers chomping at the bit to win the primary and send Conrad Burns packing in November But we need your commitment today to empower our grassroots support in the New Year Please, consider making a special gift to our campaign at this time.

We already know what our opponents plan to do in this race They plan to raise as much money from high dollar sources as they can, hoping that their bundles of money will conceal how out of touch they are with working Montanans

But we are going to beat them the old fashioned Montana way by spreading the word, neighbor to neighbor, and letting people know that in 2006 we have the opportunity to send real Montana values to Washington

But we need your support to get that word out Please, donate today, and help us meet our goal

Together, we'll Wrap Montana in Blue for 2006

Jon Tester

[Cross posted at Daily Kos.]

Posted by **Guest Writer** on Dec 07, 2005 at 10:05 am
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

2 Comments »

1. Hey Thanks for the new content, looks great Last 3 donation links are dead, though

   Take Care,

   Dan

   Comment by Dan December 7, 2005 @ 10.43 am

2. Fixed Thanks

   Comment by Guest Writer December 7, 2005 @ 10.54 am

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Grizzlies. You Like Us! You Really Like Us!

Wow

I just wanted to thank everyone who marched with Jon Tester at the homecoming parade. Your energy is absolutely contagious and Jon Tester will win if you keep it up

Honestly, people were just lining the sidewalks chanting, "TESTER! TESTER! TESTER!"

That was so awesome

Also, a shout out to the U of M College Democrats — 85 people at your first meeting. Great job on turnout calls and tabling. Keep us at the Tester campaign updated on how we can help

I hope everyone's homecoming was as fun as the parade

Photos will be up tomorrow

Posted by **Jess Grennan** on Oct. 03, 2005 at 8:23 pm
Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

No Comments »

No comments yet.

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What We've Accomplished So Far

[Note. Jon sent the following email to supporters of the campaign today. To sign up to receive free email updates, click here.]

In the last three months, you raised more money for our campaign than any other Democrat in this race against Conrad Burns

Thanks to your efforts and support, we're reporting $324,000 raised in the third quarter, with a total of $382,000 raised since I entered the race in late May

But the most amazing thing is not the amount of money we've raised, but the number of people who have taken part in our effort to bring Montana values to Washington, D C

Nearly 3,000 individuals have contributed to this campaign, demonstrating that our support comes from the bottom up — from everyday working Montanans — and not from the top-down special interests who are financing Conrad Burns

Montanans are making it loud and clear that they want real change in Washington, D C

As I've traveled across the state, I've heard Montanans tell me that they want access to affordable health care for their families, good-paying jobs, and quality education for their kids

I've heard their concerns about protecting Social Security and their retirement income. And I've heard from many people the complaint that politicians in Washington just don't seem concerned about regular working people

But we're going to change that.

You've accomplished a tremendous amount in the last few months. But what we've accomplished together is just the beginning. Please take a moment to tell your friends about our campaign. Ask them to join us in the fight to bring real change to Washington. They can join for free by visiting this link:

http://www.testerforsenate.com/join/

And if you haven't yet done so, please consider volunteering for the campaign. Your time and commitment can make a huge difference in winning this race. You can sign up to lend a hand by visiting this link.

Thank you all for all that you do,

Jon Tester

Posted by **Guest Writer** on Oct. 17, 2005 at 12:22 pm
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

1 Comment »

1 [ ] Let's hope so. In related News: Thanks to your efforts and support, we're reporting $324,000 raised in the third quarter. But the most amazing thing is not the amount of money we've raised, but the number of people who have taken part. Nearly 3,000 individuals have contributed to this campaign, demonstrating that our support comes from the bottom up — from everyday working Montanans — and not from the top-down special interests who are financing Conrad Burns. [ ]

Pingback by Left in the West » Blog Archive » Its Official... — October 19, 2005 @ 9:31 am

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Burns Knows He Has a Real Race on His Hands

from Bill Lombardi

"In the staid halls of the U S Senate, Montana Republican Conrad Burns is known for his booming voice and his cheery, back slapping confidence But when it comes to talking about his upcoming bid for re-election, his demeanor turns more serious "

Associated Press, 10/29/05

Just in case you didn't see it, there's an article in this morning's *Great Falls Tribune* you need to check out.

When you read the article, you see that Senator Burns is acknowledging what Jon Tester has been talking about since day one in this campaign
Health care is too expensive, energy prices are too high, and we need a change in direction in this country.

But after seventeen years in Washington, it doesn't look like Senator Burns has a solution on any of these fronts

The fact is that while Senator Burns at the end points out that he's in Washington, that he's got seniority, and that he's in the majority, he still has trouble pointing to anything he's done about these two most pressing problems facing Montana health care costs and energy prices

The fact is that back here in Montana, Jon Tester has been a leader on both of these issues, passing new health insurance and prescription drug plans and taking the lead in diversifying our energy portfolio and decreasing our dependence on foreign oil

The fact of the matter is that Conrad Burns is worried about Jon Tester Where Burns has his claim to seniority, Tester has a history of getting the job done

Five years ago, an upstart Montana rancher nearly knocked Conrad Burns out of office

Next year, an upstart Montana farmer will finish the job

Tell your friends Conrad is vulnerable He knows it Washington knows it Most importantly, Montanans know it, because we need a change in direction in this country and an end to the culture of corruption in Washington

Thanks for your support,

Bill Lombardi
Montanans for Tester

Posted by **Guest Writer** on Oct. 29, 2005 at 1 44 pm
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

1 Comment »

1 Montana Dems should really start a Drinking Liberally chapter It's a great way to cultivate and keep in contact with the grassroots Dems need to organize every way we can before the midterms DL is easy and fun and it's something we alreay do . sorta, check it out at DrinkingLiberally.org

Comment by anon — November 29, 2005 @ 10.26 pm

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Fundraising Update

As of **3:45 PM MST**,
we've received **20 online donations**
in December for a total of **$2,145.02**.

21.45% of the way to the goal!

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Dec 08, 2005 at 4:48 pm
Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

No Comments »

No comments yet.

TrackBack URI

Leave a comment

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Name (required)

E-mail (required)

URI

Enter your comments below

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Article **Grizzlies: You Like Us! You Really Like Us!** Will Be Send To Your Friend

*** Required**

Your Name: *

Your E-Mail: *

Your Remarks:

Friend's Name: *

Friend's E-Mail: *

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tester time!

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Article **What We've Accomplished So Far** Will Be Send To Your Friend

*** Required**

Your Name: *

Your E-Mail: *

Your Remarks:

Friend's Name: *

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Article **Burns Knows He Has a Real Race on His Hands** Will Be Send To Your Friend

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Your Name: *

Your E-Mail: *

Your Remarks:

Friend's Name: *

Friend's E-Mail: *

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Article **Help Us Wrap Montana in Blue!** Will Be Send To Your Friend

*** Required**

Your Name: *

Your E-Mail: *

Your Remarks:

Friend's Name: *

Friend's E-Mail: *

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Article **Fundraising Update** Will Be Send To Your Friend

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Friend's Name: *

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Real Montana. Real Change.

[Bill Lombardi sent the following email to supporters today. Sign up for email updates.]

Today Montanans are uniting behind Jon Tester at rallies across the state. This morning, U.S. Senator Max Baucus, Governor Brian Schweitzer, State Auditor John Morrison, and U.S. House candidate Monica Lindeen joined Jon on stage in the State Capitol Rotunda, unified in the campaign to send Senator Burns into retirement in November.

They're joining Montanans from all walks of life, spreading the message that this election isn't about Republicans versus Democrats. **This election is about working Montanans versus insider Washington D.C.** It's about good-paying jobs, affordable health care, quality education and access to public lands. It's about affordable energy for consumers across the nation. And it's about ending the culture of corruption that infects our political process and clouds Senator Burns' judgement in the Senate.

We have tremendous momentum coming out of the Primary Election. Independent-minded voters are joining our campaign because they understand Jon Tester's commitment to real change for Montana in the U.S. Senate. **Now it's time to tell your friends and family to join the campaign.**

http://www.testerforsenate.com/join

Conrad Burns and the Republicans from back East are scared by the grassroots wave they saw in the primary. D.C. Beltway Republicans are already running ads on television in Montana, trying to confuse voters and change the subject. **They're even making fun of Jon's haircut.**

But this election won't be decided by attack ads or elite Republican operatives. It will be decided by working Montanans who want a guy like them in Washington, D.C. A third generation farmer whose roots run deep here at home.

So if you can, make a contribution today, and join Governor Schweitzer, Senator Baucus, and thousands of Montanans on stage, united for real change and a real Montanan in the U.S. Senate.

http://www.testerforsenate.com/contribute

Thank you for all that you do.

Bill Lombardi

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun. 16, 2006 at 1:37 pm
Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

2 Comments »

1. Here's an idea from a dailykos poster.

   Give Tester what you pay your barber (2+ / 0-)
   Recommended by: jeffinalabama, Left Shu Untied
   Here's a fundraiser idea. If the NRSC is going to make baseless attacks on Tester, we shouldn't sit idly by. They really pissed me off with this one, and I'm sure they've pissed off a lot of other people too.

   If everyone or even a modest percentage of all of the people who read this site gave Tester as much as they pay their barber (or hairdresser) for a haircut, that would amount to a substantial amount of money. So, I just donated $15 (I live in an expensive area.) So, come on. Who else is with me here?

   http://www.actblue.com/...

   by ortcutt on Fri Jun 16, 2006 at 03:07:03 PM MDT

   Comment by Doug — June 16, 2006 @ 3:32 pm

2. "We have tremendous momentum coming out of the Primary Election."

   I don't think the RNC quite realizes how true this statment is. I have personally asked 15 Montanas who are friend of the family and historically vote republican. ALL of them are voting for Tester in the fall including 5 who told me that it will be there first vote ever for a Democrat for US Senate. Burns' camp is only able to come up with tired attacks regarding non-issues (marriage and flag amendment). Two issues that rate at the VERY BOTTOM of concern according to numerous polls.

   Comment by DefeatConradBurns — June 18, 2006 @ 5:55 am

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Name (required)

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Article **Real Montana. Real Change.** Will Be Send To Your Friend

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Article **Sirota: "It's Tester Time"** Will Be Send To Your Friend

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   Comment by Doug — June 16, 2006 @ 3:32 pm

2. "We have tremendous momentum coming out of the Primary Election."

   I don't think the RNC quite realizes how true this statment is. I have personally asked 15 Montanas who are friend of the family and historically vote republican. ALL of them are voting for Tester in the fall including 5 who told me that it will be there first vote ever for a Democrat for US Senate. Burns' camp is only able to come up with tired attacks regarding non-issues (marriage and flag amendment). Two issues that rate at the VERY BOTTOM of concern according to numerous polls.

   Comment by DefeatConradBurns — June 18, 2006 @ 5:55 am

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Real Montana. Real Change.

[Bill Lombardi sent the following email to supporters today. Sign up for email updates.]

Today Montanans are uniting behind Jon Tester at rallies across the state. This morning, U.S. Senator Max Baucus, Governor Brian Schweitzer, State Auditor John Morrison, and U.S. House candidate Monica Lindeen joined Jon on stage in the State Capitol Rotunda, unified in the campaign to send Senator Burns into retirement in November.

They're joining Montanans from all walks of life, spreading the message that this election isn't about Republicans versus Democrats. **This election is about working Montanans versus insider Washington D.C.** It's about good-paying jobs, affordable health care, quality education and access to public lands. It's about affordable energy for consumers across the nation. And it's about ending the culture of corruption that infects our political process and clouds Senator Burns' judgement in the Senate.

We have tremendous momentum coming out of the Primary Election. Independent-minded voters are joining our campaign because they understand Jon Tester's commitment to real change for Montana in the U.S. Senate. **Now it's time to tell your friends and family to join the campaign.**

http://www.testerforsenate.com/join

Conrad Burns and the Republicans from back East are scared by the grassroots wave they saw in the primary. D.C. Beltway Republicans are already running ads on television in Montana, trying to confuse voters and change the subject. **They're even making fun of Jon's haircut.**

But this election won't be decided by attack ads or elite Republican operatives. It will be decided by working Montanans who want a guy like them in Washington, D.C. A third generation farmer whose roots run deep here at home.

So if you can, make a contribution today, and join Governor Schweitzer, Senator Baucus, and thousands of Montanans on stage, united for real change and a real Montanan in the U.S. Senate.

http://www.testerforsenate.com/contribute

Thank you for all that you do.

Bill Lombardi

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun. 16, 2006 at 1:37 pm
Comments: 3 Comments | Grow the Campaign - Forward This to a Friend

Tester Victorious

Edit, as of this post, AP had not called the race. Bad intel.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun. 06, 2006 at 10:57 pm
Comments: 7 Comments | Grow the Campaign - Forward This to a Friend

Live from Tester HQ Part III

10:00 p.m.

We need some new numbers here still, especially Cascade and Yellowstone.

But

Missoula Co

Tester, 11,380 Morrison, 3047

That is 4000 more than voted in 2004 Primary for Governor

10:00 news on now

10:08 p.m.

New Numbers

Flathead
Tester 1362
Morrison 1192 80% in

Yellowstone
Tester 6150
Morrison 5330

Gallatin
Tester 943
Morrison 429

10:13 p.m.

Jeff Ament is on KPAX (Montana's News Station) at the election night event here in Missoula.

We're still waiting for results but VERY pleased. Rumor is that they are starting the count over in Cascade County.

10:22 p.m.

Just heard Michelle Reinhart won. Congrats: another young democrat in the legislature.

10:26 p.m.

Numbers from the Hi-Line

Hill County
Tester 488
Morrison 88

Liberty County
Tester 175
Morrison 19

10:28 p.m.

Blaine County
Tester 778
Morrison 265

10:30 p.m.

Morrison is on KPAX now

10:32 p.m.

AP has not called the race, John Morrison is delivering a stand-up unity speech about the important issues facing Montana, including the culture of corruption surrounding Conrad Burns.

10:36 p.m.

I am signing off from here. Results will not update for a while.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun. 06, 2006 at 9:59 pm
Comments: 14 Comments | Grow the Campaign - Forward This to a Friend

Live from Tester HQ Part II

9:00 p.m.
Results from Cascade County:
Tester 1295, Morrison 695 (absentees)

9:03 p.m.
Results from Cascade County:
Tester 4779, Morrison 2611

9:05 p.m.
Results from Yellowstone County:
Tester 2349, Morrison 2207

9:16 p.m.
Evidently the Cascade county number above is incorrect.

9:19 p.m.
Results from Missoula County:
Tester 4199, Morrison 1236 (29 of 101 precincts)

9:21 p.m.
Now for some not as good news, but still early

Results from Silver Bow County:
Tester 455, Morrison 786

Results from Deer Lodge County:
Tester 422, Morrison 695

9:37 p.m.

Results from Flathead County:
Tester 330, Morrison 311

Results from Lewis and Clark County:
Tester 3846, Morrison 1209

NOTE: all of these are preliminary unless otherwise noted.

9:42 p.m.
Results from Silver Bow County:
Tester 809, Morrison 1241

9:43 p.m.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun. 06, 2006 at 9:01 pm
Comments: 12 Comments | Grow the Campaign - Forward This to a Friend

Poll: Tester, Morrison Deadlocked

Helena Independent Record: "Tester, Morrison Deadlocked"

"'The thing that strikes me is that Morrison is still better known than Tester, but Tester has a higher favorable rating with Democrats,' said Brad Coker, managing director of Mason-Dixon Polling & Research, which conducted the poll. 'Tester may have a little more upward mobility. He's pretty well positioned for the primary. I think it's a close race, but if Tester won, it wouldn't surprise me.'"

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on May. 28, 2006 at 6:43 am
Comments: 2 Comments | Grow the Campaign - Forward This to a Friend

D is for Deadline

The Billings Gazette spotlighted the problems with Medicare Part D this morning on its editorial pages. Recall earlier this week, Jon Tester pressed for an extension of the May 15 deadline to give seniors more time to choose a new Medicare Prescription Drug Plan. Senator Baucus also sided with seniors concerned about their health care and pushed to extend the deadline.

Conrad Burns voted against the extension.

The Gazette applauds Senator Baucus for rising above the partisanship and doing what's right for Montana senior citizens. From the editorial:

> Baucus has been working on Medicare Part D since the measure was written as part of an even larger Medicare bill in 2003. As the ranking Democrat on the Senate committee that oversees Medicare, he is in a key position to hold the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services accountable and to help craft needed revisions to the law. But Montana's entire delegation, including Rep. Denny Rehberg, needs to be on board with making Medicare Part D work better for enrollees and for taxpayers.
>
> The first step is giving seniors some breathing room. Extend the sign-up deadline at least six months.

Montana needs two senators who will advocate for senior citizens regardless of the politics.

In the Montana Senate, Jon has a proven record of producing results for Montanans.

Join the campaign, and help us send a leader who delivers results to Washington D.C.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Feb. 09, 2006 at 5:49 pm
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign - Forward This to a Friend

Setting the Record Straight

[Jon Tester sent the following email to campaign members this morning. To sign up to receive free campaign alerts, click here.]

If you've been around a TV anywhere in Montana lately, you've seen Conrad Burns' latest twist of his relationship with Washington lobbyists.

Senator Burns says he's setting the record straight on his relationship with disgraced lobbyist Jack Abramoff. But his ad is straight-up political spin.

We put together a response to Senator Burns that offers what all Montanans deserve — the truth.

View the video response, "Setting the Record Straight":

http://www.testerforsenate.com/video/BurnsVideo.htm

Read a transcript and factsheet of the video (opens in PDF):

http://www.testerforsenate.com/video/SettingtheRecordStraight.pdf

Conrad Burns has lost touch with Montana. These days, he seems more likely to fight for powerful Washington interests than Montana working families concerned about jobs, health care, education, and high energy costs.

The culture of corruption and cronyism in Washington has to end. We need a Senator who's willing to take on the powerful interests to fight and get the work done for Montanans and Americans, not K Street lobbyists who pay to play in the halls of Congress.

Conrad Burns has dropped more than $200,000 on media all over Montana to spin his relationship with Jack Abramoff. But you can help counter his attempts to distort the truth by forwarding this message to a friend. And help us continue to set the record straight by making a contribution today.

Thank you for all that you do.

Jon Tester

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jan. 27, 2006 at 10:57 am
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign - Forward This to a Friend

No on Alito

[Jon Tester sent the following email to campaign members this morning. To sign up to receive free campaign alerts, click here.]

I wanted to take a moment to share with you my views on the Senate's upcoming vote to confirm or reject Samuel Alito's nomination to replace Sandra Day O'Connor on the U.S. Supreme Court.

After careful consideration, I have come to the conclusion that the U.S. Senate needs to reject the nomination of Samuel Alito.

There are simply too many reasons to doubt this nomination and not enough reasons to have faith in it.

For example: when applying for a job, Judge Alito made it clear that he disagreed legally with such fundamental Constitutional principles as the right of one person, one vote.

Yet without the fundamental belief in America that we are all created equal under the law, we can have no justice.

I'm also deeply disappointed by Judge Alito's broken promises to the U.S. Senate. When confirmed to sit on a circuit court, Judge Alito said that he would recuse himself from cases involving certain parties where he had a vested interest. Yet he failed to do that.

Simply put, Samuel Alito is the wrong person for the court, and the wrong person for our country.

Judge Alito was reported out of the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday on a straight party-line vote, which shows just how partisan President Bush's choice for the Supreme Court really is.

And if Judge Alito becomes the same judge on the Supreme Court that he was on the Court of Appeals, we all could see more government intrusion in our daily lives, broader presidential power without checks and balances, and a reduced right to privacy. And as we Montanans know, we pride ourselves on our constitutional right to privacy.

That's why we need an independent Supreme Court to:

- Protect the system of checks and balances that protects the Constitution and our democracy
- Protect Americans from a presidential abuse of power
- And uphold the rule of law

That's why I believe the U.S. Senate needs to reject the nomination of Samuel Alito.

Thank you for your continued support,

Jon Tester

P.S. Please forward this email to your friends and family and ask them to join you in supporting our campaign. They can join for free by visiting: http://www.testerforsenate.com/join/

Posted by **Guest Writer** on Jan. 26, 2006 at 11:21 am
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign - Forward This to a Friend

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Join the campaign, and help us send a leader who delivers results to Washington D.C.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Feb. 09, 2006 at 5:49 pm
Comments: Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

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No comments yet.

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Winning Montana

Jon has a recap of what we've done this quarter and how we're going to win this race. It's up at New West Network, Daily Kos and MyDD. It's a great piece worth checking out.

> We highlighted real differences between Conrad Burns and the values of Montana voters
>
> 1. We stood up and demanded a real energy policy that addresses America's energy needs while recognizing the need for conservation, renewable energy development, and the strengthening of our rural economies. (If you haven't yet signed the petition demanding that George Bush and Congress get serious about energy, please do so here)
>
> 2. We stood up and said that it's time for this foolish talk about privatizing Social Security to come to an end so we can deal with real issues facing America.
>
> 3. We declared, "You can't rebuild America by tearing American workers down" and called on the White House to reverse their decision on Davis-Bacon.
>
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>
> 5. And we stood up and said that Washington, D.C. needs real leadership to deal with the deficit today - so that our children aren't left paying our debts.
>
> And in the process of standing up for what's right, more than 2,000 people like you have made financial contributions to our campaign.

Go read the whole thing. What should we do next quarter?

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Sep. 30, 2005 at 8:08 am
Comments - Grow the Campaign - Forward This to a Friend

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Commenter Matching Fund

Bill Section 147, a commenter at Daily Kos, has offered to match up to 20 individual $10 contributions to this campaign. If you've thought about giving a little and want it to count double, that's too good of an offer to refuse.

See his comment for details.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Sep. 30, 2005 at 2:15 pm
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign - Forward This to a Friend

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Comments: None | Grow the Campaign - Forward This to a Friend

A New Day in Montana

by Bob Ream

[Editor's Note: Former Montana Democratic Party Chair Bob Ream sent the following message to members of the campaign today. We're proud to have the support of Bob, who is a great Democrat and a great Montanan.]

Since my retirement after eight years as Chair of the Montana Democratic Party, I've managed to stay quite busy - doing "deferred maintenance" at home and taking a much needed vacation with my family.

Now it's time for me to get back into politics and participate in a way that I haven't been able to in years: by getting involved in a primary.

I spent 16 years in the Montana House and **I am dedicated to helping Jon Tester win both the primary and the general election.**

Jon Tester is my good friend and **he is the only Democrat who can beat Conrad Burns.** Tester is a farmer from north central Montana who appeals to rural and urban Montana voters. Tester knows what it's like to wake up at 4:30 a.m. and work out in the fields. The dirt on his cowboy boots is real. He's a third generation Montana farmer who will take Montanan's needs and issues to Washington without the help of Jack Abramoff or other lobbyists.

But it will take all of us participating in some way to beat Conrad Burns and his special interest money. If you can afford to do so, **please join me in making a financial contribution to the Tester campaign today.** Tomorrow is the final day of the fundraising quarter. Even a small amount can go a long way.

http://www.testerforsenate.com/contribute/

Jon Tester is a team player. During the last election when Montana Democrats took control of the Senate, the Montana Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee and the Party had no bigger ally than Jon Tester. Jon spent the year raising money, knocking on doors and mentoring our new candidates.

His hard work paid off: we picked up 6 Senate seats and 3 House seats. Because of his hard work and the respect of the other 26 Senate Democrats, Jon was elected President of the Senate. In that capacity he was highly successful at working across the aisle and working with the Governor's office to get solid legislation passed.

Democrats like you and I and Jon Tester went through a lot together in this last decade. Together, we witnessed some of our party's worst defeats. And, together, we rebuilt one of the strongest Democratic parties in the nation - making it truly a **New Day in Montana**.

Please join me in **sending Jon Tester a contribution**, so we can return Burns' seat to the party of Mike Mansfield.

http://www.testerforsenate.com/contribute/

Thank you for working with me to elect Jon Tester to the U.S. Senate in 2006.

Bob Ream

Posted by **Guest Writer** on Sep. 29, 2005 at 10:44 pm
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign - Forward This to a Friend

Asking for Answers is Fair

Two days ago, in the same email I highlighted below, Jon brought a little attention to a new report titled "Beyond Delay: The 13 Most Corrupt Members of Congress." The reason he raised this report is that Montana's junior Senator - Conrad Burns - is featured along with 10 other Republicans and 2 Democrats as one of the 13.

That's quite the prize.

The report focuses on still unanswered questions about the relationship between Conrad Burns' office and notorious Washington lobbyist Jack Abramoff.

Yesterday, two men in Florida who have connections to Jack Abramoff were arrested on murder charges -- charges brought in the death of the former owner of SunCruz casinos. The man was killed while trying to get his company back from Jack Abramoff.

SunCruz may sound familiar because two of Conrad Burns' staffers -- his Chief of Staff and his Appropriations staffer - took a vacation on SunCruz casinos before going to the Super Bowl on a trip paid for with Abramoff's money.

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>
> By the same token, we can't expect those in Washington to clean up to corruption in Washington.
>
> It's going to take all of us standing up and saying, enough is enough. We deserve a government better than this.

He's right. We get the government we work for. Right now, you might say that we've got the government we deserve. Let's work harder and get the government we want.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Sep. 28, 2005 at 2:53 pm
Comments: 2 Comments | Grow the Campaign - Forward This to a Friend

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Jon sent an email to members of the campaign yesterday highlighting a few problems with Senator Conrad Burns' stance on what workers rebuilding the Gulf Coast should be paid.

The thing is, the Senator and the White House think it's OK to hand out no-bid contracts without competition but tell those companies sure to profit from the reconstruction that they can pay their workers minimum wage.

Jon Tester is sending a different message though:

> I support the prevailing wage standard - because I believe in a fair day's pay for a fair day's work. I don't think you can rebuild America by tearing American workers down.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Sep. 27, 2005 at 11:13 am
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign - Forward This to a Friend

Recount Afoot Serves as a Reminder

The recount beginning today in Missoula is a reminder of just how much of a difference voting can make. The second and third place finishers are separated by a mere two votes. In the campaign world, that's knocking an extra 50 doors, making an extra 100 phone calls, recruiting an extra three volunteers, raising an extra $50. That little of a commitment really can make all of the difference between defeat and victory in Montana.

Just last year, Jeanne Windham squeaked to victory in Lake County after an apparent tie became a defeat for Constitutionalist Rick Jore. In 2000, the margin in the Democratic primary for Superintendent of Public Instruction was less than 100 votes out of 91,819 cast. Similar stories replay every year at every level of Montana politics -- local, legislative, and statewide.

The Missoulian has more on the race.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Sep. 23, 2005 at 10:48 am
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign - Forward This to a Friend

The Leadership Deficit in Washington

You can tell its getting toward the end of the quarter with as busy as everyone in the campaign is.

This afternoon, Jon sent a message to people on our campaign email list. He wrote about how Washington is facing two serious deficits right now, the money deficit and the leadership deficit.

Here are some of my favorite passages:

> What are they thinking in Washington?
>
> As America begins to deal with the economic effects of Hurricane Katrina and prepares to deal with oncoming Hurricane Rita, we're hobbled by the impact of four years of binge spending and tax cuts in Washington, D.C.
>
> And here comes the hangover.
>
> [...]
>
> Too few people in Washington - of either party - are willing to state the obvious: that in order to pay for this natural disaster, we just might have to get our fiscal house in order, live within our means, invest in our kids and our future, and stop giving away the treasury.
>
> It's this sort of behavior that makes all of us occasionally wish Washington would just use a little bit of good old fashioned Montana common sense. But if wishes were horses, beggars would ride.
>
> The government in Washington may not get it at times, but it's our government. It's our responsibility to fix it. And it's our responsibility to do what they won't - to roll up our sleeves, work together and get the job done. Like we did in the 2005 Legislature - we balanced the budget, lived within our means, improved health care, boosted funding for education, and eliminated property taxes for 13,000 small and Main Street businesses.
>
> That's getting the job done.

Help us get the job done. Don't forget, you still have the opportunity to donate and receive one of the limited Pearl Jam/Jon Tester posters.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Sep. 22, 2005 at 5:32 pm
Comments: 3 Comments | Grow the Campaign - Forward This to a Friend

End of Quarter Coming: 3 Ways to Help

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1. Join our email list. Hear directly from Jon about his opinion on the issues and find out the latest news about the campaign.
2. Sign the Energy Petition. Join Jon's call for America to embrace a real energy policy, one that diversifies our energy base, strengthens rural economies, and provides cleaner alternatives.
3. Donate. Running for office is expensive these days. Lend a hand and help us get Jon elected.

That new poll out last week shows we've made some great gains over the summer. Help us keep that momentum going this fall.

Jon sent an email today to a number of people who came to the Pearl Jam concert last month. Check it out after the jump.

(more...)

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Sep. 22, 2005 at 1:36 pm
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign - Forward This to a Friend

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Posted by **Matt Singer** on Sep 28, 2005 at 2:53 pm
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

2 Comments »

1. Margot Kidder, Norma Buchanan and I sat in Jon's future office this past Monday (I've we met with a Burns staffer in Burns' Washington digs. We were lobbying for a "Get Out of Iraq" plan having marched in the protest on Saturday. I think our politicians have forgotten that the colossal size of the buildings and the magnificent monuments are symbols of the greatness of the people who have kept this democracy together. As they walk through these halls, they're have swollen to the point that they are about to explode. They should walk through those halls and march down those streets like we did. With humility and gratefulness for being an American.

   Comment by Montana Maven — September 29, 2005 @ 8:09 am

2. No preview button. Yikes! Correction: "They're heads have swollen" P.S. I'll help redecorate. It needs it.

   Comment by Montana Maven — September 29, 2005 @ 8:12 am

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That new poll out last week shows we've made some great gains over the summer. Help us keep that momentum going this fall

Jon sent an email today to a number of people who came to the Pearl Jam concert last month. Check it out after the jump

> Two weeks ago, in the wake of skyrocketing gas and energy prices, I wrote to members of our campaign — asking you to step forward with me and demand that Congress and the President develop a comprehensive new energy policy
>
> Now, as more of our energy infrastructure is under threat from Hurricane Rita, our need for a forward-thinking energy policy is greater than ever. If you haven't yet signed the petition demanding that President Bush and Congress get serious about energy, please do so today:
>
> http://www.testerforsenate.com/energy/
>
> All Americans felt the impact of Hurricane Katrina on our nation's energy supplies. Prices at the pump skyrocketed, and the price of natural gas and home heating oil climbed to new highs, even as temperatures dip here in Montana
>
> The price of oil, gasoline and natural gas is only going up in the future. Yet this President has no comprehensive plan to alleviate the rising costs of energy over the long term
>
> Instead of working to reduce our dependence on foreign oil or to tap the potential of alternative energies that can be developed here in Montana, President Bush last month signed an energy bill that gave billions of dollars in tax breaks to oil companies
>
> And now Republicans in Congress are talking about yet another energy bill that will give these companies even more handouts
>
> That's not what we need. We know that over the long term, oil prices are only likely to rise. America needs a smarter, more forward-thinking energy policy — and that's the type of energy policy I'm going to fight for in the U.S. Senate
>
> Please join me in that fight:
>
> http://www.testerforsenate.com/energy/
>
> Here in Montana, we've taken a lead on developing alternative energy sources. We passed my bill in the 2005 Legislature that promotes renewable energy development to bring jobs to rural Montana and will help lower energy rates to consumers
>
> With proper investment and support from the federal government, we could strengthen Montana's economy, reduce our nation's dependence on foreign oil, and decrease our vulnerability to the types of price shocks that we've seen this hurricane season by diversifying our energy sources and increasing efficiency
>
> It's time for Congress and this President to get serious about energy. Please join me by signing the petition demanding a comprehensive new energy plan
>
> http://www.testerforsenate.com/energy/
>
> Thank you for everything you do
>
> Jon Tester
> Montanans for Tester
>
> P.S. You can still get a concert poster designed by my friend Jeff Ament. Click here to learn more
> http://www.testerforsenate.com/posters/

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Sep. 22, 2005 at 1:36 pm
Comments: Grow the Campaign — Forward This to a Friend

No Comments »

No comments yet.

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Sirota: "It's Tester Time"

Sirota,

> Tonight is a terrible night for Conrad Burns, not only because one of his primary challengers got almost a quarter of GOP votes, but because Democrats now have Jon Tester carrying the flag against him. Burns barely eeked out a victory last time against Schweitzer. Then an unknown first time candidate. Now, severely damaged by his connections to high profile corruption scandals, Burns is facing a Schweitzer style populist. But one who is better known than Schweitzer was during his dark horse Senate bid in 2000. It's Tester Time. And that means Burns' days in the Senate are numbered.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun. 07, 2006 at 12:04 am
Comments 1 / Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Live from Tester HQ

8:23 p.m.
We're on the ground in Missoula. Lots of energy and good results from absentees coming in from Billings. Check out the Billings Gazette for these numbers.

Results from Yellowstone County: Tester 969, Morrison 1140, Richards 39, Marcure 15, Candee 12. (absentee)

8:28 p.m.
Results from Ravalli County: Tester 980, Morrison 438. (early pickup + absentee)

Results from Lewis and Clark County: Tester 2757, Morrison 881. (absentees)

8:43 p.m.
Results from Missoula County: Tester 909, Morrison 347, Richards 16, Candee 8, Marcure 12 (not sure what this is)

8:50 p.m.
Results from Musselshell County: Tester 112, Morrison 140, Richards 2, Candee 1, Marcure 0

Results from Big Horn County: Tester 21, Morrison 12

8:55 p.m.
Our early total: Tester 5770 (65%), Morrison 2978 (33%), Richards 106 (1%), Marcure 38 (0%), Candee 36 (0%)

Starting a new thread. Cautiously optimistic here.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun. 06, 2006 at 8:24 pm
Comments 5 Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Liveblogging Tonight at TesterTime

I'll be live-blogging results here tonight at TesterTime.
Check back for results, photos, and updates from the party at the Holiday Inn Parkside in Missoula, MT.

Note that I will NOT be the spokesperson for the Tester campaign tonight. Official statements will be clearly marked as such.

Our next update will be after the polls close at around 8:00 p.m. MDT. Absentee numbers should be released soon after that.

For now, back to GOTV calls.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun. 06, 2006 at 9:51 am
Comments 8 Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Vote Today

Polls in Montana are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For more information about the election or to find your polling place contact your county election administrator. Don't hesitate to call us at (406) 454-2006 or (406) 449-0117 if you need help getting out to vote.

Election results will be available online this evening. I would suggest checking out the following resources:

Great Falls Tribune

Billings Gazette

Bozeman Chronicle

Montana's News Station

Montana Secretary of State

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun. 06, 2006 at 9:39 am
Comments None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Sprint to the Finish

Jon kicked off a tour of the state in Helena today where he stopped by the Farmer's Market and cheered for the runners in the Governor's Cup. We had a great group of volunteers and a tremendous response to Jon's presence at the event.

Stay tuned for more updates from the road as we close in on Election Day.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun. 03, 2006 at 9:48 pm
Comments 2 Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

News From the Campaign Trail

We've had a flurry of activity over the past week here at the Tester campaign. Bumper Stickers, campaign literature and yard signs are going out the door at record pace and volunteers around the state are calling their neighbors about the race.

It's been a wildfire in the press as well. These headlines indicate how momentum has shifted to Tester as the Primary Election approaches.

Missoula Independent: "Photo Finish"

> "Suddenly, Tester's dark horse campaign came galloping into the light. Jon Tester, his supporters said, was the only candidate with nothing to hide, and hence was the only one who could take on and beat Burns. For his part, and without going directly after Morrison's indiscretions, Tester said the same thing.
>
> This week's polls show Tester has come from behind and is now running neck and neck with Morrison—and, for the first time, surpassing him in fundraising. If momentum means anything, it would appear the momentum going into the election is strongly with Tester."

Forbes: "Burns Faces Questions on Ties to Lobbyist"

> "I think, given the overall importance of ethics, if we're just looking at one issue, that Tester is better placed than Morrison,' said Craig Wilson, a Montana State University-Billings political scientist who has observed Montana politics for 40 years."

Billings Gazette: "Richards: Tester is Best Choice"

> "Richards said he thinks Tester is the best Democrat to defeat U.S. Sen. Conrad Burns, R-Mont., in the November general election—and that Morrison, if nominated, would lose to Burns.
>
> "'My votes could make a difference,' Richards said. 'I couldn't be comfortable sitting on the votes that I have if John Morrison is the nominee.'"

Billings Gazette: "Morrison Refuses Tester's Invitation to Last Debate"

> "Tester, a Big Sandy rancher and president of the state Senate, challenged Morrison, a Helena attorney who is state auditor, to the debate so voters can hear the differences between the two candidates.
>
> 'Montana voters deserve to hear from both of us as much as they can so they can elect the best Democrat to take on Conrad Burns this fall,' Tester said in a press release. 'Voters want to hear from us directly. That's the way our democracy works best.'"

National Journal: "Montana, Jersey & Arizona, On The Move"

> "We've been tempted to move this race up for months, but the state's overall GOP tendencies have held us back. But not anymore, not when one of the more respected polls we've seen from the state (Mason-Dixon) shows both Democrats topping Burns. We used to be in the camp that said Morrison was Burns' toughest foe. But we're no longer so sure of that, as Tester has shown surprising strength and put to rest rumors questioning his campaign trail discipline."

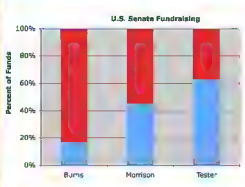
USA Today: "Montana's Burns Gets Set for Tough Race"

Missoulian: "Burns Busy with Fundraisers"

CQ: "MT Senate: Race to Take On Embattled Burns Nears Finish"

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun. 01, 2006 at 12:41 pm
Comments 4 Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

More Montana



An interesting piece on campaign finance and the U.S. Senate race in the Missoulian today.

Mike Dennison at the Lee State Bureau did some digging in campaign financial disclosure reports and found some statistics that shed light on the candidates and how they conduct their campaigns. Conrad Burns has collected nearly $800,000 from corporate CEOs, and nearly $2.6 million from PACs. In response, the GOP trots out the same tired line about supposed out-of-state funds behind Democratic campaigns.

The GOP's oft-repeated mantra is flat out wrong about the Tester campaign. Jon Tester has raised over 63% of his funds from Montanans.

> Tester has collected plenty of smaller contributions because he appeals to working folks who don't have a lot of money, said campaign manager Bill Lombardi.
>
> "It's just a lot of working Montanans who support Jon Tester, a farmer and a working guy," Lombardi said.
>
> The Tester campaign also has made a special effort to solicit campaign funds online, resulting in many $25 and $50 donations from Montana and all over the country, he added.

Your support has made this campaign more about montana than interests out of state. Check out the article for more on the U.S. Senate campaign Montanans built.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on May. 23, 2006 at 10:26 am
Comments 1 Comment | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Lee Newspapers Profile Tester

Jennifer McKee of the Montana Lee State Bureau took some time to interview Jon and write about the campaign awhile back and her candidate profile appeared in Lee Newspapers today.

The piece is a straightforward and sometimes surprising glimpse inside the day to day life of the Tester family and the campaign for the U.S. Senate.

> Unseating Burns is not the only reason he's running for Senate, Tester said. It's not even one of the top reasons.
>
> Tester is running because Big Sandy public schools used to need three bus routes to pick up all the farm kids, now the farm kids barely fill up one. Working families used to have a shot at being middle class, now they're treading water.
>
> Tester is running because a couple of weeks ago a single mom called him up. "She's a Big Sandy girl," he said. Her daughter survived childhood brain cancer and now requires shots that cost $6,400 a year.
>
> Insurance doesn't cover it.
>
> "When I think about prescription drugs, those are the kinds of faces that pop into my mind," said Tester.

Check out the Billings Gazette for the complete story. The Gazette also has Jon's answers to key personal and political issues.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on May. 21, 2006 at 10:08 pm
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Article **Voting and Bracing for Winter** Will Be Send To Your Friend

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Montana Morning Roundup

Tom Schneider is not running for re-election to the Public Service Commission, leaving an open seat. So far the only candidate showing interest is Senator Ken Toole, who is the chair of the Senate Energy and Telecommunications Committee

David Lipson's Paws Up Resort has now paid $90,000 in fines to the State of Montana and owes an additional $120,000 following a deal with the State to avoid being shut down Missoula County is still decidedly unimpressed with the operation

Finally, a hat's off to Tech and UM for making Princeton Review's Best 361 Colleges this year Maybe UM President George Dennison will be more pleased this year than he was the last time Princeton Review "honored" the school In '99 UM received honors as a party school There's no word on the recognition's details this year

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Aug 24, 2005 at 10:14 am
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Yawn. Stretch.

Alright, we're back after Labor Day weekend. There was a little bit of coverage of the Labor Day picnics this weekend, with Betsy Cohen of the *Missoulian* writing about Missoula's picnic and the issues weighing down on the workers present: "rising gas prices, low wages, [and] Gulf Coast devestation." Those sound a bit like the issues weighing down America right now. Last week, Jon called for a reevaluation of our national energy policies. Clearly, we also need to be doing more about how much people are getting paid.

The other big news this weekend is the death of Chief Justice Rehnquist. The White House has now nominated John Roberts, originally nominated for Associate Justice Sandra Day O'Connors' seat on the court, for the post of Chief Justice.

What did you do this weekend?

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Sep. 06, 2005 at 9:40 am
Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

1 Comment »

1. Sat under a bare lightbulb in the cellar writing angry letters to the Govmint.

   Comment by Tony — September 6, 2005 @ 8:59 pm

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On the Radio

Jon's in the next room doing a radio interview right now. He just finished on two points

- He said that Democrats need to be more aggressive in standing up for what we believe. When we do that, people will listen and respect us
- Democracy only works when people participate

Doesn't get much truer than that.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Aug. 24, 2005 at 9:32 am
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

No Comments »

No comments yet.

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Montana Morning Roundup

The *Great Falls Tribune* reports this morning that BRAC is taking up the Air Force list, with deliberation this morning on the issue of removing fighters from the Montana Air National Guard

Staff at Missoula county schools are threatening a strike The union has come back with a plan for a two year elevent percent raise Their threats gained backing from the MEA-MFT, with Eric Feaver coming to Missoula to support the school staff

Meanwhile, the early chilly weather is helping firefighters The *Bozeman Chronicle* profiles Roger "Liberty Tree" Koopman

Finally, two Health and Human Services employees saved Pica, the Governor's more elderly dog, while taking an afternoon walk.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Aug 26, 2005 at 9:28 am
Comments Grow the Campaign – Forward This to a Friend

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He s everywhere

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Aug 29, 2005 at 1 33 pm
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Montana Morning Roundup

As water continues to rise in New Orleans (and the Red Cross continues to need your help), life in Montana seems a bit mundane by comparison. The *Billings Gazette* is reporting this morning that the Public Service Commission has approved a rate hike on natural gas rates so students are facing tuition surcharges to cover the cost according to the *Montana Kaimin*.

Voters in Gallatin County rejected a a new county jail, the *Bozeman Daily Chronicle* is reporting. The *Great Falls Tribune* tells us that Tom Siebel, a philanthropist, is funding a $5.6 million campaign to fight meth use. His action comes after the passage of a comprehensive anti-meth legislative package at the legislature this year.

Finally, Swing State Project is reporting that campaigns across the country are following Jon's lead and calling for support of the Red Cross. Both the Democratic and Republican parties nationally have now put out the call to their supporters to help our neighbors in Louisiana and Mississippi.

What else is happening in your Montana morning?

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Aug. 31, 2005 at 10:33 am
Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

2 Comments »

1. And your stance on Senator Burns? Slinging mud all you can seems to be fairly common in political campaigns, questioning candidates is a necessity to practice politics with integrity and get the right man for the job. So when you stop and tally score - backing Tester seems to be a far better move than the incumbent. What has Burns done to stop the war?

   Comment by Kerry — August 31, 2005 @ 12:55 pm

2. Regarding the PSC approving natural gas hikes, indeed, it's a bitter pill to swallow for Montanans, particularly after the recent report that we rank at the bottom in wages ($12,000 below the national average!). But the optimist in me notes that perhaps this is the cold splash of ice water in the face - the wakeup call we sorely need to incorporate affordable, green energy into our lifestyle. Maybe the next ten years of wallet draining fill-ups and ankle-grabbing utility bills will yield truly efficient vehicles, and clean, cheap power for our homes.

   Comment by Luke Duran — September 1, 2005 @ 8:01 am

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Montana Afternoon Roundup

New West's Jonathan Weber came to the show last night and was impressed by Pearl Jam's show. As noted in the story and in comments over there, Pearl Jam doesn't back just anybody. Of course, Jon Tester isn't just anybody.

Joe Nickell of the *Missoulian* also came down to our little concert and noticed how Pearl Jam was trying to play off of Jon Tester's "cool" vibe. I may have gotten that backwards, but the story does a great job of highlighting how the concert has sparked interest among a lot of UM students, not to mention the 50-70 volunteers we had running around in Blue "Jon Tester" T-shirts last night.

Of course, there were several thousand other people there who can shed a little light on how the concert went. What did you think of the show?

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Aug. 30, 2005 at 1:10 pm
Comments: Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

1 Comment »

1. I'm a pearl jam fan as much as the next. I was at the show and had the privledge for the first time of being front row.

   Jon Tester seems like a great guy. But being a great guy is not what is required to earn a vote for the US senate. As we know, The United State's foreign policy effects working people in every corner of the globe. Jon Tester's campaign as far as I can tell is focused on Montana issues. What about the big question every one wants to hear about... The War? What about the connection between unemployment in Montana and unemployment in the nation AND AROUND THE WORLD. The Global economy makes the nation state system obsolete. We need people who will fight internationally. This requires recognization of the crisis of world capitalism. How can the nations of the world fight independently for jobs at home while production is now carried out on a global scale? When these contradictions reach a fever pitch the solution comes in the form of physically eliminating competetors from the market... WWI, WWII. How many tradgedies will we allow capitalism to plunge us into before we learn its incompatibilities. My point is that Jon needs to reach out to the only force in the world that can revolutionize society... the international working class.

   As for Eddie's saying comment about PJ never backing an unworthy candidate, have we already forgotten the "vote for change tour" aimed at gathering support for Mr. Kerry? Pearl Jam consistently fights against the war yet backs candidates from pro-war parties, the democrats. What about even farther back and the support given to ralph Nader? That wasn't stirring us wrong? If you supported him in 2000 why not 2004? If you have changed your mind you must have learned something. What lessons has eddie drawn from his nearly a decade of political confusion? A responsibility comes with a public position of influence and vocal people like eddie must be held accountable for reckless promoting. Eaddie is directly responsible for the political illusions today in the democratic party among the youth. Were the 70+ Big Sky Democrats anti-war? I'm sure they were. Is the party they are promoting? Certainly not.

   john jaccobs

   Comment by john jaccobs — August 30, 2005 @ 5:55 pm

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Montanans Show their Generosity

According to the *Billings Gazette*, the Montana Red Cross has raised over $200,000 since Hurricane Katrina Montanans earlier donated $500,000 during the Asian tsunami Since many of us are donating to other charities or directly to the American Red Cross, that number comes nowhere close to showing the real generosity in the state

Our Senior U S Senator has put together a relief package for the Gulf states that the *Tribune* reports on this morning The package includes relief for states hit hard by Medicaid costs, unemployment assistance, and other money to help the people of the Gulf states hit hard by the storm Senators are predicting the total federal tab for the storm may top $150 billion

According to the *Chronicle*, the Bozeman City Commission, at the urging of former Democratic Congressional candidate and current party Vice Chair Tracy Velazquez, is considering ways that their city can lend a hand in relief efforts

Finally, while Senator Baucus, Ms Velazquez, and Montanans across the state have been hard at work trying to lend a hand to the people of the Gulf Coast, former U S Representative Rick Hill, former Governor Judy Martz, and Secretary of State Brad Johnson are busy working on a Supreme Court appointment, the *Billings Gazette* reports

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Sep 07, 2005 at 10:29 am
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

2 Comments »

1. This is a critical time for leadership and the New Orleans disaster shows the absence of infrastructure and leadership at all levels of gov't — Local, state and federal The BBC reported a couple of days ago advising the US to reconsider how its gov't is indeed organized because we obviously can't handle a disaster on our land

   Maureen Dowd of the NY Times has a great editorial today, as does the general NY Times editorial

   We cannot let this debacle pass without realizing the failure of our infrastructure and incompetence of those in charge

   This is a real issue that JT should take a clear stand on Take a page from Brian Schweitzer's book here Don't listen to "political strategists" and weigh the up side and the down side of whether or not to comment on the travesty in New Orleans Do what your heart says here only then can you step into the leadership vacuum

   Comment by Montana — September 7, 2005 @ 12:39 pm

2. Montana is a long way away from New Orleans but even here you can see examples of the "efficency" of the relief effort Now don't get me wrong, I am a firm supporter of the American Red Cross but when they announced on National TV that they wanted volunteers for the relief effort, one would assume that they are ready to accept them My wife has been calling all weekend to volunteer (she has family in Houston and friends in Louisiana) but all she is getting is answering machines . How can you volunteer if nobody's home?

   Comment by Moorcat — September 11, 2005 @ 3:04 pm

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City Elections Tomorrow

With a number of contested primaries across the state tomorrow, voter turnout should be up in these elections Both Billings and Missoula face crowded 6-way races for Mayor Numerous contested races for city council will also be narrowed tomorrow

If you want more information on the candidates, I'd recommend checking the online archives of your local daily newspaper A number of candidates have also gone online this year, so a google search might take do the trick.

If you have questions about your polling location or if you can't find any decent information about any of the candidates and want to figure out how to get ahold of them, the next best step is probably to call your county election office A complete list of those offices is available from the Secretary of State's office

Feel free to discuss the upcoming municipal elections in comments

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Sep 12, 2005 at 10:26 am
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Voting and Bracing for Winter

Today is primary election day in cities across Montana. Make sure you vote.

New West reports on and opines about the sentencing of businessman Dick Dasen in the Flathead. Dasen was convicted of sex related felonies. He has been held to account in the court of public opinion for financially contributing in a major way to the Flathead's meth problem.

Mike Dennison (writing for Lee, doesn't his name look out of place?) reports that the Governor is outlining an agenda to help cover home heating costs, since energy bills keep skyrocketing (sign the petition for a real federal energy policy).

And Missoula is poised to get a Krispy Kreme. Missoula has a noticeable lack of donut shops (I think there's one on West Broadway that's pretty decent), but a number of outstanding bakeries. Here in Billings, I typically head to the Donut Hole when I've got a craving for a maple bar, but I'm sure Krispy Kremes will be greeted with open mouths, as they tend to be.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Sep. 13, 2005 at 10:48 am
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Climbing Out of the Snow Lakes

This morning, Jon sent an email to people in the campaign explaining his commitment to public access to public lands

> That's a principle I'm committed to. If we own it, we should be able to access it.
> That applies to the rivers and streams of this state. It also applies to our federal lands -- to the national parks and wilderness areas that dot our state and the huge swaths of land held by the BLM, the Forest Service and other federal agencies.
>
> For most of us, the waters and mountains and forests define what it is to be a Montanan. We've all got our memories from public lands -- catching that first trout, or waking up early in the mountains or on the plains. Fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, floating, and backpacking with our families are part of our heritage.
>
> And if you send me to the U.S. Senate, I pledge to protect that heritage.

A few years ago, one of my best friends and I went hiking into the snow lakes, a difficult hike in the Beartooths out of East Rosebud. If you know the trail, you might have seen the area I'm talking about. Halfway to Elk Lake, the trail crosses a sizeable stream. If you break left and follow the stream, ascend a boulder field, and hike a pass between two peaks, you come to two amazingly beautiful lakes. We made it that night and hiked out early the next morning.

As we entered the canyon to descend back to the main trail, the mountains were glowing in the warm golden glow also encountered occasionally on the rims in Billings. Few colors in nature are more beautiful.

That's my favorite memory of Montana's land.

What's yours?

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Sep. 15, 2005 at 11:32 am
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Article **Montanans Show their Generosity** Will Be Send To Your Friend

*** Required**

Your Name: *

Your E-Mail: *

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Article **Climbing Out of the Snow Lakes** Will Be Send To Your Friend

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COOL: Getting the Job Done

Senator Burns is wringing his hands in Washington, D.C. because his own party keeps shutting down efforts to get Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) implemented. He even goes so far as to accuse his own party of selling out to special interests. Who would have thought?

But here's the thing. When it comes to COOL, Washington has a little bit to learn from Montana. Frustrated with years of delay in D.C., Jon Tester, Rep. Bob Bergren, and Gov. Brian Schweitzer passed their own COOL bill in Montana, earning a status as heroes among the Montana Cattlemen Association. Republicans criticized the effort, saying it was grandstanding since the federal government would deliver.

If only that were the case.

But while Conrad Burns wrings his hands, Jon Tester rolls up his sleeves and gets the job done.

That's the difference here in Montana.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Oct. 28, 2005 at 10:52 am
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Homecoming on Saturday

Jon was in Missoula on Saturday for the Homecoming Parade. Jess Grennan, our staffer who was there with him, has promised a report and pictures later today. Look forward to it.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Oct. 03, 2005 at 9:47 am
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Recount Afoot Serves as a Reminder

The recount beginning today in Missoula is a reminder of just how much of a difference voting can make. The second and third place finishers are separated by a mere two votes. In the campaign world, that's knocking an extra 50 doors, making an extra 100 phone calls, recruiting an extra three volunteers, raising an extra $50. That little of a commitment really can make all of the difference between defeat and victory in Montana.

Just last year, Jeanne Windham squeaked to victory in Lake County after an apparent tie became a defeat for Constitutionalist Rick Jore. In 2000, the margin in the Democratic primary for Superintedent of Public Instruction was less than 100 votes out of 91,819 cast. Similar stories replay every year at every level of Montana politics — local, legislative, and statewide.

The Missoulian has more on the race.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Sep. 23, 2005 at 10:48 am
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Climbing Out of the Snow Lakes

This morning, Jon sent an email to people in the campaign explaining his commitment to public access to public lands:

> That's a principle I'm committed to. If we own it, we should be able to access it.
> That applies to the rivers and streams of this state. It also applies to our federal lands — to the national parks and wilderness areas that dot our state and the huge swaths of land held by the BLM, the Forest Service and other federal agencies.
>
> For most of us, the waters and mountains and forests define what it is to be a Montanan. We've all got our memories from public lands — catching that first trout, or waking up early in the mountains or on the plains. Fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, floating, and backpacking with our families are part of our heritage.
>
> And if you send me to the U.S. Senate, I pledge to protect that heritage.

A few years ago, one of my best friends and I went hiking into the snow lakes, a difficult hike in the Beartooths out of East Rosebud. If you know the trail, you might have seen the area I'm talking about. Halfway to Elk Lake, the trail crosses a sizeable stream. If you break left and follow the stream, ascend a boulder field, and hike a pass between two peaks, you come to two amazingly beautiful lakes. We made it that night and hiked out early the next morning.

As we entered the canyon to descend back to the main trail, the mountains were glowing in the warm golden glow also encountered occasionally on the rims in Billings. Few colors in nature are more beautiful.

That's my favorite memory of Montana's land.

What's yours?

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Sep. 15, 2005 at 11:32 am
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Voting and Bracing for Winter

Today is primary election day in cities across Montana. Make sure you vote.

New West reports on and opines about the sentencing of businessman Dick Dasen in the Flathead. Dasen was convicted of sex-related felonies. He has been held to account in the court of public opinion for financially contributing in a major way to the Flathead's meth problem.

Mike Dennison (writing for Lee, doesn't his name look out of place?) reports that the Governor is outlining an agenda to help cover home heating costs, since energy bills keep skyrocketing (sign the petition for a real federal energy policy).

And Missoula is poised to get a Krispy Kreme. Missoula has a noticeable lack of donut shops (I think there's one on West Broadway that's pretty decent), but a number of outstanding bakeries. Here in Billings, I typically head to the Donut Hole when I've got a craving for a maple bar, but I'm sure Krispy Kremes will be greeted with open mouths, as they tend to be.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Sep. 13, 2005 at 10:48 am
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

City Elections Tomorrow

With a number of contested primaries across the state tomorrow, voter turnout should be up in these elections. Both Billings and Missoula face crowded 6-way races for Mayor. Numerous contested races for city council will also be narrowed tomorrow.

If you want more information on the candidates, I'd recommend checking the online archives of your local daily newspaper. A number of candidates have also gone online this year, so a google search might take do the trick.

If you have questions about your polling location or if you can't find any decent information about any of the candidates and want to figure out how to get ahold of them, the next best step is probably to call your county election office. A complete list of those offices is available from the Secretary of State's office.

Feel free to discuss the upcoming municipal elections in comments.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Sep. 12, 2005 at 10:26 am
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Montanans Show their Generosity

According to the *Billings Gazette*, the Montana Red Cross has raised over $200,000 since Hurricane Katrina. Montanans earlier donated $500,000 during the Asian tsunami. Since many of us are donating to other charities or directly to the American Red Cross, that number comes nowhere close to showing the real generosity in the state.

Our Senior U.S. Senator has put together a relief package for the Gulf states that the *Tribune* reports on this morning. The package includes relief for states hit hard by Medicaid costs, unemployment assistance, and other money to help the people of the Gulf states hit hard by the storm. Senators are predicting the total federal tab for the storm may top $150 billion.

According to the *Chronicle*, the Bozeman City Commission, at the urging of former Democratic Congressional candidate and current party Vice Chair Tracy Velazquez, is considering ways that their city can lend a hand in relief efforts.

Finally, while Senator Baucus, Ms. Velazquez, and Montanans across the state have been hard at work trying to lend a hand to the people of the Gulf Coast, former U.S. Representative Rick Hill, former Governor Judy Martz, and Secretary of State Brad Johnson are busy working on a Supreme Court appointment, the *Billings Gazette* reports.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Sep. 07, 2005 at 10:29 am
Comments: 2 Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Yawn. Stretch.

Alright, we're back after Labor Day weekend. There was a little bit of coverage of the Labor Day picnics this weekend, with Betsy Cohen of the *Missoulian* writing about Missoula's picnic and the issues weighing down on the workers present: "rising gas prices, low wages, [and] Gulf Coast devestation." Those sound a bit like the issues weighing down America right now. Last week, Jon called for a reevaluation of our national energy policies. Clearly, we also need to be doing more about how much people are getting paid.

The other big news this weekend is the death of Chief Justice Rehnquist. The White House has now nominated John Roberts, originally nominated for Associate Justice Sandra Day O'Connors' seat on the court, for the post of Chief Justice.

What did you do this weekend?

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Sep. 06, 2005 at 9:40 am
Comments: 1 Comment | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

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Montana Morning Roundup

As water continues to rise in New Orleans (and the Red Cross continues to need your help), life in Montana seems a bit mundane by comparison. The *Billings Gazette* is reporting this morning that the Public Service Commission has approved a rate hike on natural gas rates so students are facing tuition surcharges to cover the cost according to the *Montana Kaimin*.

Voters in Gallatin County rejected a a new county jail, the *Bozeman Daily Chronicle* is reporting. The *Great Falls Tribune* tells us that Tom Siebel, a philanthropist, is funding a $5.6 million campaign to fight meth use. His action comes after the passage of a comprehensive anti-meth legislative package at the legislature this year.

Finally, Swing State Project is reporting that campaigns across the country are following Jon's lead and calling for support of the Red Cross. Both the Democratic and Republican parties nationally have now put out the call to their supporters to help our neighbors in Louisiana and Mississippi.

What else is happening in your Montana morning?

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Aug. 31, 2005 at 10:33 am
Comments: 2 Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Help Our Neighbors

About an hour ago, Jon sent out the following message to our email list:

> I want to thank all of you who helped make Monday night's Pearl Jam show in Missoula such a tremendous success. Whether you attended the show in person, showed your support by contributing online, or just read about the night's events on our blog, your participation means a great deal to me.
>
> Now I want to ask you to participate in another way - by making a contribution to the American Red Cross to support the residents of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama who have been devastated by Hurricane Katrina.
>
> As I write this, waters continue to rise in New Orleans, where entire neighborhoods have been flooded. Biloxi, Mississippi has been hit hard. More than 37,000 Americans are already seeking shelter in American Red Cross centers all along the Gulf Coast. And the director of FEMA says tens of thousands more will likely require shelter for weeks, if not months.
>
> So why is a U.S. Senate candidate from Montana asking you to help out?
> Because it's the right thing to do. Because this campaign isn't just about politics - it's about all of us pulling together to bring Montana values to Washington, D.C. and to the rest of the nation.
>
> And in Montana, we help a neighbor in need. And sometimes that neighbor is very far away.
>
> So please do what you can by supporting the efforts of the American Red Cross to help those affected by this disaster.
>
> Thank you for helping out.
>
> Jon Tester
> Montanans for Tester

Honestly, please help the Red Cross. And if you want to get campaign updates in the future, join the email list over on the right.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Aug. 30, 2005 at 5:53 pm
Comments: 1 Comment | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Montana Afternoon Roundup

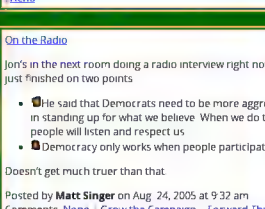
New West's Jonathan Weber came to the show last night and was impressed by Pearl Jam's show. As noted in the story and in comments over there, Pearl Jam doesn't back just anybody. Of course, Jon Tester isn't just anybody.

Joe Nickell of the *Missoulian* also came down to our little concert and noticed how Pearl Jam was trying to play off of Jon Tester's "cool" vibe. I may have gotten that backwards, but the story does a great job of highlighting how the concert has sparked interest among a lot of UM students, not to mention the 50-70 volunteers we had running around in Blue "Jon Tester" T-shirts last night.

Of course, there were several thousand other people there who can shed a little light on how the concert went. What did you think of the show?

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Aug. 30, 2005 at 1:10 pm
Comments: 1 Comment | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

He's everywhere



Posted by **Matt Singer** on Aug. 29, 2005 at 1:33 pm
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

The Road from Big Sandy to Washington, D.C.

From here, it looks like a long, winding road from Big Sandy to Washington, D.C. We've got quite a ways to go, but there are many unique places and remarkable people to see along the way. I've already started traveling across Montana, from the mountains to the plains, to talk with everyday folks from all walks of life about our shared values and vision for Montana and America.

You probably won't be too surprised about something I've been hearing.

It turns out that I'm not the only person in this state who thinks things could be going better for us in our nation's capital.

The fact of the matter is that politicians in Washington, D.C., aren't focusing on the right issues. Some of them want to privatize Social Security while most Americans face skyrocketing health insurance premiums. But when they finally do try to tackle an important issue, like rising gas prices, they do it by giving a break to some of America's wealthiest corporations at taxpayer expense. Our representatives should focus on issues that matter - like affordable health care for families, jobs, education and our economic and retirement security.

I'm running for U.S. Senate because I think before our government signs off on a bankruptcy bill that gives creditors the green light to go after working families, the government should fix its own financial house of cards. I think its about time to remind people in Washington, D.C., about what people out here in the rest of the country are worried about. These kitchen table issues matter. And Conrad Burns and the current administration aren't getting the job done for Montana families.

For the past seven years, I've served in the Montana Legislature in both the minority and as the President of the Senate. We've accomplished a lot since winning back the Senate in 2004, from strengthening Montana's privacy laws to increasing funding for education, making health care more affordable and accessible and producing some serious plans for rural economic development.

I'll bring my experience as a citizen legislator and the beliefs we share as Montanans to the U.S. Senate. My first duty will be to represent the people I meet each and every day on the road to Washington.

It's going to be a long - and fun - trip. Thanks for joining me along the way.

Posted by **Jon Tester** on Aug. 28, 2005 at 2:50 pm
Comments: 5 Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Montana Morning Roundup

The *Great Falls Tribune* reports this morning that BRAC is taking up the Air Force list, with deliberation this morning on the issue of removing fighters from the Montana Air National Guard.

Staff at Missoula county schools are threatening a strike. The union has come back with a plan for a two year eleven percent raise. Their threats gained backing from the MEA-MFT, with Eric Feaver coming to Missoula to support the school staff.

Meanwhile, the early chilly weather is helping firefighters. The *Bozeman Chronicle* profiles Roger "Liberty Tree" Koopman.

Finally, two Health and Human Services employees saved Pica, the Governor's more elderly dog, while taking an afternoon walk.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Aug. 26, 2005 at 9:28 am
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Montana Morning Roundup

Tom Schneider is not running for re-election to the Public Service Commission, leaving an open seat. So far the only candidate showing interest is Senator Ken Toole, who is the chair of the Senate Energy and Telecommunications Committee.

David Lipson's Paws Up Resort has now paid $90,000 in fines to the State of Montana and owes an additional $120,000 following a deal with the State to avoid being shut down. Missoula County is still decidedly unimpressed with the operation.

Finally, a hat's off to Tech and UM for making Priceton Review's Best 361 Colleges this year. Maybe UM President George Dennison will be more pleased this year than he was the last time Princeton Review "honored" the school. In '99 UM received honors as a party school. There's no word on the recognition's details this year.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Aug. 24, 2005 at 10:14 am
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

On the Radio

Jon's in the next room doing a radio interview right now. He just finished on two points:

- He said that Democrats need to be more aggressive in standing up for what we believe. When we do that, people will listen and respect us.
- Democracy only works when people participate.

Doesn't get much truer than that.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Aug. 24, 2005 at 9:32 am
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

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Article **Building Bridges** Will Be Send To Your Friend

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Havre Daily News: Burns an Embarassment to Montana

The Havre Daily News follows Conrad Burns' tracks through the national media in an opinion piece and concludes our Junior Senator "has embarassed this state" due to his dealings with Jack Abramoff. The editors encourage Montanans to look into the facts surrounding the investigation before believing Burns' advertising hype.

The piece concludes by calling out Conrad's "aw shucks" strategy:

> Rather than respond to legitimate questions, Burns would rather have us all think that he's just a simple country boy and that we're just a bunch of simple country folk.
>
> He isn't, and we aren't.

Conrad Burns is implicated up in a complex web of Beltway deals that's far from country and even farther from simple. He has taken more money from Jack Abramoff, his clients, and his associates than anyone else in Congress.

Time for a change? Take a look at Jon Tester's ethics proposal, a simple plan to bring ethics back to the U.S. Senate.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jan. 31, 2006 at 3:34 pm
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Web Ad Holds Burns' Feet to the Fire

Earlier this week Montana Newspapers reported on our Web Ad in response to Conrad Burns' media buy. Buzz about the ad is spreading truth about Conrad Burns' relationship to Jack Abramoff. Montanans are sick and tired of the culture of corruption in Washington D.C. And, with $200,000 in airtime, they're probably growing sick of Senator Burns' political spin during the nightly news.

The Billings Gazette piece covering our Web Ad includes a response from National Republican Senitorial Committee. Their spokesman, Brian Nick, dodges the content of the ad, chosing to attack Democrats instead.

Montanans have demanded Conrad Burns explain his dealings with Jack Abramoff. We've pushed our Junior Senator to explain his stance on Social Security privatization and his votes on Amtrak and pesticide testing.

And in return, we're served political spin.

If you haven't already, take a look at the ad on our website.

Like what you see? Help us spread the truth by signing up to volunteer, or making a contribution today.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jan. 31, 2006 at 11:59 am
Comments: 1 Comment | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Setting the Record Straight

[Jon Tester sent the following email to campaign members this morning. To sign up to receive free campaign alerts, click here.]

If you've been around a TV anywhere in Montana lately, you've seen Conrad Burns' latest twist of his relationship with Washington lobbyists.

Senator Burns says he's setting the record straight on his relationship with disgraced lobbyist Jack Abramoff. But his ad is straight-up political spin.

We put together a response to Senator Burns that offers what all Montanans deserve — the truth.

View the video response, "Setting the Record Straight":

http://www.testerforsenate.com/video/BurnsVideo.htm

Read a transcript and factsheet of the video (opens in PDF):

http://www.testerforsenate.com/video/SettingtheRecordStraight.pdf

Conrad Burns has lost touch with Montana. These days, he seems more likely to fight for powerful Washington interests than Montana working families concerned about jobs, health care, education, and high energy costs.

The culture of corruption and cronyism in Washington has to end. We need a Senator who's willing to take on the powerful interests to fight and get the work done for Montanans and Americans, not K Street lobbyists who pay to play in the halls of Congress.

Conrad Burns has dropped more than $200,000 on media all over Montana to spin his relationship with Jack Abramoff. But you can help counter his attempts to distort the truth by forwarding this message to a friend. And help us continue to set the record straight by making a contribution today.

Thank you for all that you do.

Jon Tester

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jan. 27, 2006 at 10:57 am
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

No on Alito

[Jon Tester sent the following email to campaign members this morning. To sign up to receive free campaign alerts, click here.]

I wanted to take a moment to share with you my views on the Senate's upcoming vote to confirm or reject Samuel Alito's nomination to replace Sandra Day O'Connor on the U.S. Supreme Court.

After careful consideration, I have come to the conclusion that the U.S. Senate needs to reject the nomination of Samuel Alito.

There are simply too many reasons to doubt this nomination and not enough reasons to have faith in it.

For example, when applying for a job, Judge Alito made it clear that he disagreed legally with such fundamental Constitutional principles as the right of one person, one vote.

Yet without the fundamental belief in America that we are all created equal under the law, we can have no justice.

I'm also deeply disappointed by Judge Alito's broken promises to the U.S. Senate. When confirmed to sit on a circuit court, Judge Alito said that he would recuse himself from cases involving certain parties where he had a vested interest. Yet he failed to do that.

Simply put, Samuel Alito is the wrong person for the court, and the wrong person for our country.

Judge Alito was reported out of the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday on a straight party-line vote, which shows just how partisan President Bush's choice for the Supreme Court really is.

And if Judge Alito becomes the same judge on the Supreme Court that he was on the Court of Appeals, we all could see more government intrusion in our daily lives, broader presidential power without checks and balances, and a reduced right to privacy. And as we Montanans know, we pride ourselves on our constitutional right to privacy.

That's why we need an independent Supreme Court to:

- — Protect the system of checks and balances that protects the Constitution and our democracy
- — Protect Americans from a presidential abuse of power
- — And uphold the rule of law

That's why I believe the U.S. Senate needs to reject the nomination of Samuel Alito.

Thank you for your continued support,

Jon Tester

P.S. Please forward this email to your friends and family and ask them to join you in supporting our campaign. They can join for free by visiting: http://www.testerforsenate.com/join/

Posted by **Guest Writer** on Jan. 26, 2006 at 11:21 am
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Tester Calls Both Parties Ethics Reforms "Not Enough"

[Jon released the following Press Release earlier today.]

Tester Calls Both Parties Ethics Reforms "Not Enough"

Tester Announces He'll Live by Stricter Rules

Ethics changes proposed by Democrats and Republicans in Washington this week "are just not enough to change the "pay-to-play" culture of Washington," says Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate Jon Tester, who Thursday announced his plans to fight for — and abide by — far stricter ethics standards.

"In the light of the Republican corruption scandals that Conrad Burns' relationship with Jack Abramoff have highlighted, Washington politicians of all stripes are scrambling to get behind anything they can call reform," Tester said. "But the proposals I have seen this week are just not enough to change the 'pay-to-play' culture of Washington.

"I'm all for strengthening rules, but it's even more important to change the culture of corruption. We need to let Washington know now that the 'For Sale' sign has to come down, and Conrad Burns' days of 'pay-to-play' are ending," Tester said. "But judging by how some of the so-called reforms being discussed this week are already meeting resistance from Washington insiders — senators and lobbyists — I'm not going to hold my breath. We simply can't trust the foxes to guard the henhouse and enact reforms.

"What Montanans expect and deserve is a senator who can be counted on to bring Montana's values to Washington rather than abandoning those values once he gets there," Tester said. "Today I'm announcing the rules I will live and work by, regardless of whether any of these other measures are passed. And I pledge this — I'll get tougher on ethics issues as time goes by, no matter who stands against me."

Tester released the following pledge:

> I won't just pass a law, I'll set an example. I will fight hard to put an end to the culture of corruption in Washington, and I'll live by a higher standard — a Montana standard of honesty, integrity and personal responsibility. And I'll ask a Montana judge to conduct an ethics audit of my office every year so Montanans know I'm living up to their expectations.
>
> I'll ban all lobbyist gifts, meals and travel paid by outside sources. All of it. That includes travel, lodging and meals in conjunction with fundraisers. I won't take personal favors from lobbyists, and neither will my staff.
>
> I'll shut my door to former members and staff who try to cash in on their connections. I will not allow my staff or myself to be lobbied by any former member of the Senate with whom I have served or by a former member of my staff who becomes a registered federal lobbyist. And I'll work to expand the current ban on lobbying by former members and staff to three years to shut the revolving door for those who want to profit from the connections they made in public service.
>
> > I'll end secret meetings with lobbyists. At the end of every business day I will post a list of every in-office meeting that I or my staff has had with a lobbyist. And I will work to require all lobbyists to declare on a publicly available website, on a weekly basis, every meeting they have with a member's office.
> >
> > I'll work to end the anonymous 'earmarks' that allow a member of the Senate or the House to slip in a lobbyist's favorite pork barrel spending item without any accountability. I'll fight my hardest for Montana and I'll do it openly. And I'll use the bully pulpit of the Senate floor to call attention to every anonymous earmark.
> >
> > - I'll close loopholes, not loosen them. Those seeking special access to senators are like water — they'll always seek out the cracks in the wall. Lobbyists will always try to find a loophole, even on the strictest rules. So I'll keep looking for ways to stop them, and the corrupt legislators they hope to influence.

###

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jan. 19, 2006 at 3:20 pm
Comments: 8 Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Building Bridges

We found some compelling analysis on the changing political picture in Montana by Rick Bass in Grist Magazine yesterday. Writing about a new wilderness bill for Northwest Montana, Bass outlines the 2006 U.S. Senate contest in Montana.

> Burns' support and cosponsorship of the bill might be well advised — speaking of the circularity of things — in light of the fact that his likely Democratic challenger in 2006 might well embrace it first. That challenger is a crew-cut eastern Montanan, and sudden golden child of many progressives, named Jon Tester.
>
> Tester, who has served as president of the state Senate, would have to defeat fellow Democrat John Morrison — who, like Burns, boasts superior financing — in the primary this June to face Burns. Despite those odds, hopes are riding on him. Interestingly, despite the green credibility garnered by the conversion of his family's farm to an organic operation, the energy surrounding his campaign is not environmentally driven. Instead, **it seems fueled by general idealism, the desire for a certain cleanness and integrity.**
>
> The high-dollar organic grains are about as wild and crazy, as progressive, as Tester gets, which seems to be just about the amount Montanans are pining for these days: not the regressive howlings of Newt Gingrich's "Contract with America" politics, and not the old-school progressivism of politicians like Williams, yet. **Like Schweitzer, Tester is homegrown;** he knows that guns in Montana are not the same as guns in the inner city. Maybe a word for these new Montana Democrats might be transgressive — easing, edging, into the future, and moving, finally, out of the past, even as they carry certain useful and beloved elements of it with them.
>
> Whoever emerges from the spring primary should have an interesting shot, given the Montana tilt toward the Democratic Party, and the negative ratings of Burns, who, this year more than ever, has a reputation as a bridge burner. The latter tack will always be able to rally a certain core constituency, but what if — after 20 years — he is behind the times, and Montanans decide they would rather build bridges than burn them?

Sick of burning bridges and ethically challenged politics? So are we! Show your support for Jon Tester today, and help us bring honesty and personal responsibility to the U.S. Senate.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jan. 19, 2006 at 3:15 pm
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Tribes Reject Tainted Burns Abramoff Money

USA Today has the latest on Conrad Burns' attempts to run from Jack Abramoff and his associates' campaign contributions. The Montana-Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council has refused the cash, and the Great Falls Tribune reports that the Blackfeet Community College has refused the money as well.

From the USA Today piece:

> WASHINGTON (AP) — The Montana-Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council has rejected a $111,000 donation from the campaign of Montana Sen. Conrad Burns, with some saying the money is tainted because it originally came from lobbyist Jack Abramoff and his clients.
>
> James Steele Jr., also chairman of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, said yesterday that the council voted not to accept the donation, which was made up of contributions from Abramoff, his associates and his tribal clients.
>
> In a statement Wednesday, Burns campaign chairman Mark Baker called the decision "disappointing" and said Burns would redirect most of the funds to the tribes that originally donated the money. Burns, a Republican, said in December that he would give away and return $146,700 in donations in order to avoid the appearance of improper connections to Abramoff, who pleaded guilty two weeks ago to federal corruption charges.
>
> Abramoff admitted to conspiring to defraud Indian tribes, which he sometimes directed to make contributions to lawmakers. Since his plea agreement, many lawmakers have rushed to donate money connected to him and his clients or return it.
>
> "To us it's tainted money," Doney said Wednesday. "If he wanted us to have extra money, he would have given it to us in other ways."

So, Senator Burns cannot return the tainted money to the tribes who donated to his campaign and Montana tribes are refusing the funds. Check back to see where the money ends up.

Here's an idea — maybe we can use Senator Burns' backpedaling on Abramoff donations to power our state in the face of global warming. Conrad's backpedaling is certainly a renewable resource — but probably not the cleanest power we might find.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jan. 19, 2006 at 3:10 pm
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Tester Beats Morrison, Ties Against Burns

[Bill Lombardi sent the following email to campaign members today. To sign up to receive emails, click here.]

Your hard work is paying off.

The latest Rasmussen Reports poll of Montana voters — out today — shows Jon Tester tied with Conrad Burns, 45 percent to 45 percent.

The same poll shows that Conrad Burn would beat State Auditor John Morrison, 46 percent to 43 percent.

That's a double-digit gain for our campaign in less than four months. As the Rasmussen Report says:

> [Burns'] re-election effort is apparently suffering from lobbyist Jack Abramoff's guilty plea and widely publicized agreement ... to cooperate in the investigation of congressmen who may also have broken the law. [Conrad Burns] recently returned $150,000 in contributions from Abramoff.

But while Conrad Burns' entanglement with Jack Abramoff and special-interest lobbyist money may be turning off voters, it's your grassroots effort and support that are truly propelling Jon Tester's campaign.

Every email you've forwarded, every friend you've asked to join our email list, every dollar you've contributed has gotten us to where we are today.

But we can't let up. The Burns campaign hopes to throw $10 million of their special-interest lobbyist money into this race, and they'll do anything to hang on to their seat.

So please, take a moment to redouble your efforts. Forward this email on to your friends and family, and ask them to join you in supporting Jon Tester for U.S. Senate. And if you are able, consider making a contribution to the campaign today:

http://www.testerforsenate.com/contribute/

We've gained incredible momentum. Keep up the hard work — and together we'll send Montana values to Washington, D.C., in November.

Bill Lombardi
Montanans for Tester

(Also posted at Daily Kos.)

Posted by **Guest Writer** on Jan. 11, 2006 at 11:12 am
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

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Article **Tester Calls Both Parties Ethics Reforms "Not Enough"** Will Be Send To Your Friend

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Article **Tester Pushes for Lower Freight Rates** Will Be Send To Your Friend

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Your Remarks:

Friend's Name: *

Friend's E-Mail: *

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Intelligent Discontent on Foreign Policy

Intelligent Discontent published a series of responses to foreign policy questions from Jon Tester earlier this week. All Democrats vying for the party's nomination in the June 6 Primary Election were invited to respond. Jon Tester and Paul Richards returned responses to the following questions

Do you categorically oppose the use of torture by the American military and intelligence officers?

Has the United States done enough to help alleviate African poverty?

Do you support a specific timetable for withdrawal from Iraq? What specific steps do you believe the United States should take to ensure victory in Iraq?

Do you support the Central American Free Trade Agreement? Why?

Don and his crew at Intelligent Discontent put together an interesting and diverse panel of issues for discussion. It's nice to see candidates discuss foreign policy issues in an open forum. The importance of these issues is magnified in a race for the U.S. Senate, where our relationship with the world is debated and often codified in treaties and international law.

Now more than ever, we need a U.S. Senator who understands and will fight for Montanans in foreign affairs. Join the campaign and sign up to volunteer today!

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Feb. 10, 2006 at 11:16 am
Comments — Grow the Campaign — Forward This to a Friend

1 Comment »

1. A big "well done" to Mr. Tester and the campaign for participating in this discussion of real issues. Thanks!

   Comment by Lindabee in mt — February 10, 2006 @ 5:22 pm

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[99 Days to Victory]

I believe Democrats are poised to make real gains in November. According to one survey, Conrad Burns is the least popular senator in the nation.

Across the country, Democrats are ahead of Republicans in generic polls. We're beating the Republicans at recruitment. And the field appears to be in our favor.

But to truly make gains in the House and Senate, I believe we'll need candidates willing to show true leadership. Leaders who will make tough decisions and stand up for what we believe in. Leaders who will work to solve problems and get things done — for Montana and for all of America.
(more...)

Posted by **Jon Tester** on Feb. 27, 2006 at 9:16 am
Comments: 3 Comments | Grow the Campaign: Forward This to a Friend

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Jon's interview at MyDD

Jon's interview with Jonathan Singer is up at MyDD.

Jon and Jonathan had the opportunity to cover a range of topics, from farm subsidies and the port deal to energy and ethics.

Jon's response on the role of the progressive bloggosphere is especially meaningful. Jon is a career farmer; he lives Montana everyday. This campaign is about leadership that can bring values Jon and other everyday Montanans know to the U.S. Senate.

> "I am — and I don't classify this as being a knock — I'm an average guy. I've got two kids, a wife. My parents helped teach me the business I'm in. And I'm not rich. I don't have a ton of money. I know what it's like to balance the checkbook. I know what it's like to struggle to pay bills at the end of the month. I've done all those things, and I continue to do all of those things even right now as we speak. Finances have always been something that we have struggled with, like most American families have, to buy a home, buy a new car or just pay the insurance bill.
>
> "So I'm going to take those kind of qualities to Washington, DC, and I think a lot of people in the blogosphere are in the same boat. They're regular people. They're not rich. They work for the dollars they get, and they work hard for them. If they want someone back in Washington, DC who's going to represent everybody, and not fall into this pay-to-play mentality, just represent the upper crust, then I'm their guy."

Take a look at the interview. It's worth a read.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Feb. 27, 2006 at 8:02 am
Comments: 1 Comment | Grow the Campaign: Forward This to a Friend

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Tester Pushes for Lower Freight Rates

Yesterday, Jon met with Doug Buttrey, chair of the Surface Transportation Board, to talk about freight rates and rail competition in Montana. Burlington Northern Santa Fe controls key rail lines across Montana, including a branch line serving Jon's hometown, Big Sandy.

The trouble is, that line hasn't served anyone since 2003, when BNSF mothballed the line, citing financial concerns.

Jon has spoken out on these issues in the past, calling for more competition and fair rates for Montana farmers. Tester's meeting with Buttrey was a productive step in resolving competition and rate issues for agricultural producers in rural Montana.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Feb. 23, 2006 at 7:01 pm
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign: Forward This to a Friend

LA Times: Burns in Trouble

It's becoming more clear every day that Conrad Burns has been around the "stockyards" in D.C. so long that only the folks back home can smell the "you-know-what."

Janet Hook of the LA Times recently paid a visit to Montana to talk to Montanans about this year's U.S. Senate race. What she found points to "signs of trouble for the GOP". Voters are fed up with Conrad Burns' dealings with disgraced lobbyist Jack Abramoff, and they're not afraid to say it:

> "These people need to pay more attention to the money they are taking," said Bill Curry, a brick mason from Belgrade, a town northwest of Bozeman. **"It's corrupt. I don't like it. It's not good."**

Earlier in the story, a former supporter of Conrad Burns explains why he's not with the Senator this year in November:

> Jack Bolender, a retiree who voted for three-term Sen. Conrad Burns because the Republican delivered mounds of federal aid to Montana, said he was deserting the incumbent in the state's November election. **Allegations that Burns was cozy with Jack Abramoff, the lobbyist central to a wide-ranging corruption scandal in Washington, have Bolender steamed.**
>
> "I appreciate what [Burns] brought to the state, but at what cost?" Bolender said one cold afternoon outside Murdoch's. "We seem to be selling out to the special interests."

It's funny that the only retort Republicans can put together throughout the article is to accuse Democrats of mudslinging. Unfortunately for them, Democrats like Jon Tester have been clear on the issues, promising to fight and win for Montana on issues like health care, energy, and jobs.

This story should be news to Burns that it's tough to call Democratic ads about ethics dirty when you're stuck in a muddy scandal with Jack Abramoff. Montana voters are smarter than that.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Feb. 20, 2006 at 2:16 pm
Comments: 1 Comment | Grow the Campaign: Forward This to a Friend

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Jon Tester Visits Missoula

Jon was in Missoula last week for campaign events and the Mens and Womens Cat-Griz basketball games. While he was in town, he had a chance to stop in and chat with local media. If you're in Missoula, listen for Jon's interviews with local radio in the coming weeks.

Here's Jon in the studio, ready to hit the airwaves:

And here's a shot of Montana House Democratic Leader Dave Wanzenried and Jon Tester at a Missoula event:

Be sure to check back here at Tester Time for more in the coming weeks. We'll be bringing updates and photos as Jon visits communities across Montana on his campaign to bring real change to the U.S. Senate.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Feb. 18, 2006 at 4:55 pm
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The Helena Independent Record broke a story this morning on Conrad Burns' planned fundraiser at the Yellowstone Club, an exclusive community near Big Sky.

From the article:

> The Yellowstone Club is a private ski and golf club surrounded by a high-end subdivision. Lifetime admission to the club is $250,000, which also includes the right to build a home there, according to a Feb. 8 article in London's The Evening Standard. Homes, which cost between $2 million to $20 million, can be sold only to other club members, the article reported.

It continues...

> Burns' Democratic front-runner challengers, State Auditor John Morrison and state Senate President Jon Tester, of Big Sandy, both said they'd never had a fundraiser at the at the Yellowstone Club.
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> Tester said he'd never been there or to any gated community.
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> "Does that apply to livestock?" he said. "I've been in lots of those."

As you can see, the Yellowstone Club delivers much more than a plain old gated community, most notably, the exclusive ski area and golf course. Evidently, these perks also include access to U.S. Senator Conrad Burns at **Burns Winterfest '06**.

With a name like that, it sounds like Senator Burns might be giving this year's winter games in **Torino** a run for their money.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Feb. 10, 2006 at 3:27 pm
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign: Forward This to a Friend

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Stay tuned for details about an open house at the Great Falls office in the near future.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Feb. 10, 2006 at 12:34 pm
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign: Forward This to a Friend

Intelligent Discontent on Foreign Policy

Intelligent Discontent published a series of responses to foreign policy questions from Jon Tester earlier this week. All Democrats vying for the party's nomination in the June 6 Primary Election were invited to respond. Jon Tester and Paul Richards returned responses to the following questions:

Do you categorically oppose the use of torture by the American military and intelligence officers?

Has the United States done enough to help alleviate African poverty?

Do you support a specific timetable for withdrawal from Iraq? What specific steps do you believe the United States should take to ensure victory in Iraq?

Do you support the Central American Free Trade Agreement? Why?

Don and his crew at Intelligent Discontent put together an interesting and diverse panel of issues for discussion. It's nice to see candidates discuss foreign policy issues in an open forum. The importance of these issues is magnified in a race for the U.S. Senate, where our relationship with the world is debated and often codified in treaties and international law.

Now more than ever, we need a U.S. Senator who understands and will fight for Montanans in foreign affairs. Join the campaign and sign up to volunteer today!

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Feb. 10, 2006 at 11:16 am
Comments: 1 Comment | Grow the Campaign: Forward This to a Friend

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Tester Pushes for Lower Freight Rates

Yesterday, Jon met with Doug Buttrey, chair of the Surface Transportation Board, to talk about freight rates and rail competition in Montana. Burlington Northern Santa Fe controls key rail lines across Montana, including a branch line serving Jon's hometown, Big Sandy.

The trouble is, that line hasn't served anyone since 2003, when BNSF mothballed the line, citing financial concerns.

Jon has spoken out on these issues in the past, calling for more competition and fair rates for Montana farmers. Tester's meeting with Buttrey was a productive step in resolving competition and rate issues for agricultural producers in rural Montana.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Feb 23, 2006 at 7:01 pm
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

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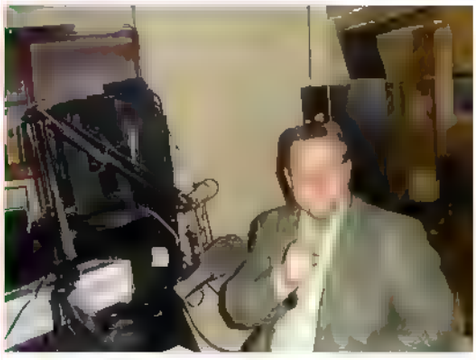

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tester time!

Help Jon Make the Cut

Watch our new television ad, "Creating a Buzz"

[Windows Media Player]

[QuickTime]

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on May 09, 2006 at 12:58 pm
Comments 5 Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Tester Debates the Issues

There have been a number of vigorous debates around the state in recent weeks, and Jon has impressed the audience at all of them. Here are some excerpts from the most recent debate in Helena

> "The audience also broke into clapping once when Tester's wife Sharla stood up, holding their 21 month old granddaughter, Kilikina
>
> 'That's my grand-daughter,' Tester said. 'That's why I'm running for the U.S. Senate.'"
> – Jennifer McKee, Lee State Bureau
>
> "Democratic Senate hopeful Jon Tester questioned the ethics of the other leading candidate for his party's nomination, saying in a debate Thursday he is the only one who could go 'belly to belly' on the issue against Republican incumbent Sen. Conrad Burns."
> – Matt Gouras, Associated Press

Be sure to turn out for the debate in Billings tomorrow, sponsored by the Billings Gazette and MSU-Billings. The event is Tuesday, May 9, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. at the Petro Theater on the campus of MSU-Billings

If you can't make it to Billings, Yellowstone Public Radio will carry the debate live

You can also hear the May 4 Helena Independent Record Debate and the Health Montana Debate archived on Yellowstone Public Radio

Swing by or tune in and show your support for Jon Tester!

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on May 08, 2006 at 6:22 pm
Comments 1 Comment | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Energizing the Netroots

The netroots have been an important part of the Tester campaign from the beginning. Since Jon's filing, blogs have highlighted the race, responding to Jon's call for real representation in Washington, D.C.

Bob Brigham at MyDD recently wrote about the race calling it "the perfect opportunity" for the netroots to display their strength. His post highlights Jon's record of accomplishment and the unique opportunity we have here in Montana to change the face of Washington, D.C.

Swing by MyDD for the whole story

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Mar 23, 2006 at 11:43 am
Comments None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

99 Days to Victory

I believe Democrats are poised to make real gains in November. According to one survey, Conrad Burns is the least popular senator in the nation

Across the country, Democrats are ahead of Republicans in generic polls. We're beating the Republicans at recruitment. And the field appears to be in our favor

But to truly make gains in the House and Senate, I believe we'll need candidates willing to show true leadership. Leaders who will make tough decisions and stand up for what we believe in. Leaders who will work to solve problems and get things done – for Montana and for all of America
(more...)

Posted by **Jon Tester** on Feb 27, 2006 at 9:16 am
Comments 3 Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Jon's interview at MyDD

Jon's interview with Jonathan Singer is up at MyDD

Jon and Jonathan had the opportunity to cover a range of topics, from farm subsidies and the port deal to energy and ethics

Jon's response on the role of the progressive bloggosphere is especially meaningful. Jon is a career farmer–he lives Montana everyday. This campaign is about leadership that can bring values Jon and other everyday Montanans know to the U.S. Senate

> "I am – and I don't classify this as being a knock – I'm an average guy. I've got two kids, a wife. My parents helped teach me the business I'm in. And I'm not rich. I don't have a ton of money. I know what it's like to balance the checkbook. I know what it's like to struggle to pay bills at the end of the month. I've done all those things, and I continue to do all of those things even right now as we speak. Finances have always been something that we have struggled with, like most American families have, to buy a home, buy a new car or just pay the insurance bill
>
> "So I'm going to take those kind of qualities to Washington, DC, and I think a lot of people in the blogosphere are in the same boat. They're regular people. They're not rich. They work for the dollars they get, and they work hard for them. If they want someone back in Washington, DC who's going to represent everybody, and not fall into this pay-to-play mentality, just represent the upper crust, then I'm their guy."

Take a look at the interview. It's worth a read

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Feb 27, 2006 at 8:02 am
Comments 1 Comment | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Web Ad Holds Burns' Feet to the Fire

Earlier this week Montana Newspapers reported on our Web Ad in response to Conrad Burns' media buy. Buzz about the ad is spreading truth about Conrad Burns' relationship to Jack Abramoff. Montanans are sick and tired of the culture of corruption in Washington D.C. And, with $200,000 in airtime, they're probably growing sick of Senator Burns' political spin during the nightly news

The Billings Gazette piece covering our Web Ad includes a response from National Republican Senitorial Committee. Their spokesman, Brian Nick, dodges the content of the ad, chosing to attack Democrats instead

Montanans have demanded Conrad Burns explain his dealings with Jack Abramoff. We've pushed our Junior Senator to explain his stance on Social Security privatization and his votes on Amtrak and pesticide testing.

And in return, we're served political spin

If you haven't already, take a look at the ad on our website

Like what you see? Help us spread the truth by signing up to volunteer, or making a contribution today

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jan 31, 2006 at 11:59 am
Comments 1 Comment | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Setting the Record Straight

[Jon Tester sent the following email to campaign members this morning. To sign up to receive free campaign alerts, click here.]

If you've been around a TV anywhere in Montana lately, you've seen Conrad Burns' latest twist of his relationship with Washington lobbyists

Senator Burns says he's setting the record straight on his relationship with disgraced lobbyist Jack Abramoff. But his ad is straight-up political spin

We put together a response to Senator Burns that offers what all Montanans deserve – the truth

View the video response, "Setting the Record Straight"

http://www.testerforsenate.com/video/BurnsVideo.htm

Read a transcript and factsheet of the video (opens in PDF)

http://www.testerforsenate.com/video/SettingtheRecordStraight.pdf

Conrad Burns has lost touch with Montana. These days, he seems more likely to fight for powerful Washington interests than Montana working families concerned about jobs, health care, education, and high energy costs

The culture of corruption and cronyism in Washington has to end. We need a Senator who's willing to take on the powerful interests to fight and get the work done for Montanans and Americans, not K Street lobbyists who pay to play in the halls of Congress

Conrad Burns has dropped more than $200,000 on media all over Montana to spin his relationship with Jack Abramoff. But you can help counter his attempts to distort the truth by forwarding this message to a friend. And help us continue to set the record straight by making a contribution today

Thank you for all that you do

Jon Tester

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jan 27, 2006 at 10:57 am
Comments None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Already Going Well

~~11:00 AM~~ 12:45 PM
~~$645.02~~ $2,075.03
~~11 Donors~~ 17 Donors

Well, Jon asked and the grassroots are already answering. As of 11:00 AM, we're at over $600 raised and the message has only been out for an hour

Thanks everyone and please, keep it coming

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Dec 07, 2005 at 11:58 am
Comments 1 Comment | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

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Article **Jon's Mansfield-Metcalf Message** Will Be Send To Your Friend

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Your Name: *

Your E-Mail: *

Your Remarks:

Friend's Name: *

Friend's E-Mail: *

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Article **Mailbag** Will Be Send To Your Friend

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Your Remarks:

Friend's Name: *

Friend's E-Mail: *

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[Equal Health Care for All Montanans]

Women deserve the right to full health care coverage, just like men

When I saw an opportunity to bring equality and fairness to women, I didn't sit back and wait - I took action. Every family should have the basic right to make decisions about their future, and every woman should have access to the prescriptions she needs It's that simple

NARAL Pro Choice Montana called my request "a courageous stand"

Here's what happened Last November, I asked Montana Attorney General Mike McGrath to evaluate and render an opinion on insurance coverage for contraception, especially when those plans cover Viagra and other prescriptions for men

Attorney General McGrath today agreed, saying that equality for women matters

> "As with Title VII, Montana case law demonstrates that because pregnancy is unique to women, differential treatment related to pregnancy and related medical conditions such as gynecological visits, is discrimination on the basis of sex, and is prohibited"

[Click here to read the the press release.]
[Click here to read the whole Attorney General's opinion.]

Equality also begins with respect and open, accountable government When politicians cut back room deals and close out the public interest, everyone on the outside loses We've all heard the stories about Conrad Burns' dealings with lobbyists like Jack Abramoff closing the door to Montanans in favor of the special interests

You and I both know that Burns is no friend when it comes to women's issues.

That's why I'm running for the U S Senate–to represent the needs of all Montanans, not the special interests and corporate lobbyists

That's the kind of leadership I will bring to Washington fighting and winning on the issues that matter most to us as Montanans

I have a proven record of taking action for Montanans supporting families, delivering prescription drugs for seniors, a better funding plan for our schools, a comprehensive energy strategy to cut our addiction to foreign oil, and economic incentives to create jobs in every corner of Montana

Can I count on you to help me fight to make a difference for women and families all across this nation? Today, we need your help to hit our fundraising target before the March 31 deadline I need you to volunteer and a make a contribution of $50, $100, $250 or whatever you can today

http://www.testerforsenate.com/contribute/

Together we can send Conrad Burns home and restore real family values in Washington

Thank you for all that you do,

Jon Tester

Posted by **Jon Tester** on Mar 28, 2006 at 3 28 pm
Comments None | Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

[U of M Crowd Welcomes Tester]

Jon was in Missoula last night for a fundraiser and a meeting with students at the University of Montana New West has the story Jon spoke with a large, enthusiastic crowd for over an hour

And surveys still say Conrad Burns is still the most unpopular senator in the country. New Survey USA numbers put Burns at 38% Conrad Burns has the lowest approval rating and the lowest net approval rating in the country Watch the numbers take a nosedive at Survey USA's website.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Mar 24, 2006 at 1 14 pm
Comments None | Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

[Energizing the Netroots]

The netroots have been an important part of the Tester campaign from the beginning Since Jon's filing, blogs have highlighted the race, responding to Jon's call for real representation in Washington, D C

Bob Brigham at MyDD recently wrote about the race calling it "the perfect opportunity" for the netroots to display their strength His post highlights Jon's record of accomplishment and the unique opportunity we have here in Montana to change the face of Washington, D C

Swing by MyDD for the whole story

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Mar 23, 2006 at 11 43 am
Comments None | Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

[Mailbag]

Today's Helena IR features a letter to the editor from Neal Ullman From the letter

> As a farmer, former teacher, and president of the Montana Senate, Jon is one of few people who wake up everyday wondering what they can do better to help their family, community, and state Jon's dedication to his family and state are the values we need representing us in Washington As scandal after scandal boils out of Washington, it's more and more clear that we need a fresh perspective to end the petty bickering

To write your own letter to the editor, you can consult the Montana Democratic Party website for newspaper contact information and formatting suggestions

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Mar 22, 2006 at 6 31 pm
Comments None | Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

[Tester Officially Files for U.S. Senate]

Yesterday, Jon Tester officially filed for U S Senate, calling for an end to Conrad Burns' "reign of corruption"

Jon submitted the necessary paperwork and spoke with reporters about the race More details about the filing are available in press coverage of the event

Montana's News Station

NewWest

Billings Gazette

Great Falls Tribune

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Mar 22, 2006 at 10 20 am
Comments None | Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

[The Right Prescription for Montana]

The Great Falls Tribune's Gwen Florio wrote a quick piece on Jon's promotional item at the Mansfield Metcalf dinner

From the article

> Tables featured prescription style bottles of M&Ms from U S Senate candidate Jon Tester, who backed a prescription drug bill in the 2005 session Tester also put an item in the silent auction — a campaign poster from the Pearl Jam fundraiser he held last summer, signed by the members of the band

Jon was the chief sponsor of the bill that created the Big Sky Rx program at the 2005 Montana Legislature This Gazette op ed has more information about the program and other Democratic victories on health care at the 2005 session

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Mar 20, 2006 at 11 16 am
Comments None | Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

[Jon's Mansfield Metcalf Message]

As promised, Jon's Mansfield Metcalf speech is now available online Check out Google Video for the great message Jon delivered to Montana Democrats on Saturday

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Mar 15, 2006 at 10 51 am
Comments 1 Comment | Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

[Mansfield Metcalf Weekend]

Montana Democrats gathered in Helena this weekend for the 28th Annual Mansfield Metcalf Dinner, remembering two great U S Senators from Montana Democrats attended meetings, trainings and social events over the weekend, gearing up to defeat Conrad Burns and win other races across the state in November

The legacy of Lee Metcalf and Mike Mansfield is a legacy of ensuring our government is open to serve everyone Both men truly held their office in the public trust fighting each day to help people in need Senator Max Baucus carries these values for Montanans today in the Senate, working for Montanans from all walks of life

Unfortunately, Montana's Junior Senator Conrad Burns closed the door on these values long ago, choosing to serve big money lobbyists in Washington D C instead of his constituents here at home

It's time to end the pay to play game in Washington D C and Jon Tester is the one who can do it In a video presented to dinner attendees, Jon shared his vision and values, stating,

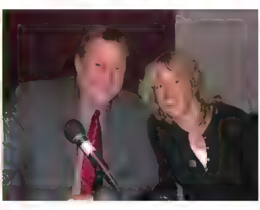
> "Growing up on a farm, I learned to work hard, have faith, love our country and support family and community Those are lessons we all teach our children, and it's a message Montana can teach America"

Jon's video really pumped up the crowd in the ballroom Applause interrupted the speech a number of times and Jon heard many positive comments afterword Tester closed strong, stating,

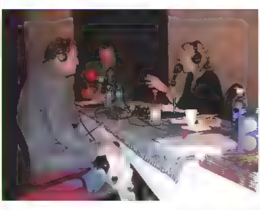
> "I may not look like the rest of the Senate, but maybe it's time that the rest of the Senate looked a little more like Montana"

Check back soon for an update, we hope to post a copy of Jon's video here on Tester Time and on the campaign website in the near future

The energy for Jon's campaign spilled outside the Helena Civic Center to a honk and wave across the street Thanks go out to our campaign volunteers and Students for Tester for braving the cold to spread the word about Jon's campaign



Before the dinner and program, Jon had the opportunity to chat with Laura Flanders of Air America Radio about his campaign Their interview is available to subscribers at Air America Premium



And, Governor Schweitzer and Jag stopped by to talk issues with Laura near the tail end of Jon's interview

Overall, it was a very encouraging weekend for the campaign Jon met Democrats from every corner of the state and talked about important issues to bring back to Washington, D C

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Mar 13, 2006 at 5 15 pm
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Grizzlies. You Like Us! You Really Like Us!

Wow

I just wanted to thank everyone who marched with Jon Tester at the homecoming parade. Your energy is absolutely contagious and Jon Tester will win if you keep it up

Honestly, people were just lining the sidewalks chanting, "TESTER! TESTER! TESTER!"

That was so awesome

Also, a shout out to the U of M College Democrats — 85 people at your first meeting. Great job on turnout calls and tabling. Keep us at the Tester campaign updated on how we can help

I hope everyone's homecoming was as fun as the parade

Photos will be up tomorrow

Posted by **Jess Grennan** on Oct. 03, 2005 at 8:23 pm
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Happy Thanksgiving

I'm headed out tomorrow to do Thanksgiving Dinner with my family. Jon was on the road today to his mother's house. I'm sure many of you are doing similar travels. Be safe. Enjoy the holiday. Feel free to share your thoughts in the comments.

And make sure you make enough food for their to be leftovers. It wasn't Thanksgiving growing up if we weren't eating turkey sandwiches, turkey a la king (OK, we used the less formal, less family appropriate name at times), and other variations on the staple food for weeks. Thankfully, we didn't repeat the whole thing at Christmas, opting for pasties instead.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Nov. 23, 2005 at 6:46 pm
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The Gazette Nails it: Rotten Politics at Work

The *Billings Gazette* editorial page this morning nails it on Country of Origin Labeling. They note that virtually everything except meat has a nice label explaining where it came from, but what we do for tortilla companies, we can't do for American ranchers for some reason

But the problem isn't necessarily the commitment of Montana or Wyoming Republicans. It's that their party leadership in Washington is so beholden to special interests that they won't even pay attention to members of their own caucus

> Wyoming's U.S. senators, Mike Enzi and Craig Thomas, both Republicans, jointly called for conferees to block efforts to delay COOL. The Wyoming duo has introduced legislation to move up labeling implementation to January 2006. Rep. Denny Rehberg, R-Mont., also has been a vocal proponent of COOL. Likewise, U.S. Sen. Conrad Burns last week said he is "furious" with the latest delay. But these Montana and Wyoming Republicans have been unable to sway their party.
>
> In Montana, state Sen. Jon Tester, D-Big Sandy, a candidate for the Senate seat Burns now holds, was the chief sponsor of Montana COOL, legislation that was signed into law to take effect next year, if the federal law doesn't.

When Democrats took back the reins of power here in Montana, it took the leadership of Jon Tester, Brian Schweitzer, and Bob Bergren one session to deliver on COOL. We've been waiting 4 years at the federal level. It looks like it might be time for change in Washington

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Nov. 02, 2005 at 10:04 am
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It's Time for Conrad Burns to Resign

Here in Montana, honesty matters. It's my firm belief that if you can't keep your word to the people, you can't keep your office.

That's why I called for Conrad Burns to resign from the U.S. Senate today.

From the beginning, his dealings with Jack Abramoff haven't passed the smell test. It smells like a barnyard that needs a clean up.

I think it's time to clean up Washington, D.C., and we should start with Conrad Burns.

Everything we know about Conrad Burns' dealings with Jack Abramoff fly in the face of his public statements on the matter. As I travel the state talking about my vision for Montana and America Republicans and Democrats alike think Conrad just isn't telling the truth.

And today's news was the last straw.

As you probably already know, Abramoff is quoted in the April issue of Vanity Fair, saying,

> "Every appropriation we wanted [from Burns's committee] we got. Our staffs were as close as they could be. They practically used Signatures as their cafeteria. I mean, it's a little difficult for him to run from that record."

The trouble is, Montanans can't run from Conrad's record either. The worst thing about Conrad Burns' behavior is that while Jack Abramoff got everything he wanted, average Montanans had to do without what we need: affordable health care, a sensible plan for energy independence, and a government in Washington we can trust.

That's why I'm running for the United States Senate, and that's why I think it's time that Conrad Burns faces the music and steps down from his office.

If you think it's time to break up Washington's game of pay to play politics, sign up for free email updates from the campaign. Our efforts are fueled by ideas and the contributions of regular people like you. If you're able, visit our ActBlue page today and make a contribution to the campaign.

Thank you for all that you do,

Jon Tester

Posted by **Jon Tester** on Mar. 08, 2006 at 6:35 pm
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Newsweek: Burns "Under Scrutiny"

Newsweek features an article on the Abramoff investigations following DeLay's decision to not seek re-election this fall. Their sources indicate the fallout is spreading—and Conrad Burns is at the top of the list.

> But after DeLay, Burns may be the ripest target for Democrats, who dream of winning six seats and regaining the Senate. Burns took more money from Abramoff and his clients than any other member of Congress—nearly $150,000, according to Federal Election Commission records. A lawyer familiar with the investigation, who declined to be named discussing an ongoing case, confirms that Burns is under scrutiny for his connections to Abramoff—in particular, whether he and his staff promoted legislation to help Abramoff's clients in exchange for campaign contributions or gifts.

And Republicans are concerned. They've thrown their weight behind Burns, despite a challenge in the primary from State Senate Minority Leader Bob Keenan. Republican Chair Chuck Denowh admits the Abramoff affair has gained traction, hurting Senator Burns' character with voters.

> "One of his characteristics was his trustworthiness and integrity," says Chuck Denowh, executive director of the Montana Republican Party. The Abramoff chatter "got people questioning that."

Interesting that Denowh uses past tense in describing Burns' trustworthiness and integrity.

Ready for a Senator you can trust? Join the campaign today.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Apr. 10, 2006 at 3:24 pm
Comments Grow the Campaign – Forward This to a Friend

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Burns Knows He Has a Real Race on His Hands

from Bill Lombardi

"In the staid halls of the U S Senate, Montana Republican Conrad Burns is known for his booming voice and his cheery, back slapping confidence But when it comes to talking about his upcoming bid for re-election, his demeanor turns more serious "

Associated Press, 10/29/05

Just in case you didn't see it, there's an article in this morning's *Great Falls Tribune* you need to check out.

When you read the article, you see that Senator Burns is acknowledging what Jon Tester has been talking about since day one in this campaign
Health care is too expensive, energy prices are too high, and we need a change in direction in this country.

But after seventeen years in Washington, it doesn't look like Senator Burns has a solution on any of these fronts

The fact is that while Senator Burns at the end points out that he's in Washington, that he's got seniority, and that he's in the majority, he still has trouble pointing to anything he's done about these two most pressing problems facing Montana health care costs and energy prices

The fact is that back here in Montana, Jon Tester has been a leader on both of these issues, passing new health insurance and prescription drug plans and taking the lead in diversifying our energy portfolio and decreasing our dependence on foreign oil

The fact of the matter is that Conrad Burns is worried about Jon Tester Where Burns has his claim to seniority, Tester has a history of getting the job done

Five years ago, an upstart Montana rancher nearly knocked Conrad Burns out of office

Next year, an upstart Montana farmer will finish the job

Tell your friends Conrad is vulnerable He knows it Washington knows it Most importantly, Montanans know it, because we need a change in direction in this country and an end to the culture of corruption in Washington

Thanks for your support,

Bill Lombardi
Montanans for Tester

Posted by **Guest Writer** on Oct. 29, 2005 at 1 44 pm
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

1 Comment »

1 Montana Dems should really start a Drinking Liberally chapter It's a great way to cultivate and keep in contact with the grassroots Dems need to organize every way we can before the midterms DL is easy and fun and it's something we alreay do . sorta, check it out at DrinkingLiberally.org

Comment by anon — November 29, 2005 @ 10.26 pm

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The War in Iraq

As many of you saw in the email, Jon laid out a policy for Iraq today A more complete description of his reasoning is available at TesterForSenate.com

Feel free to use the comments thread here to discuss the stance

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Nov 09, 2005 at 9:45 am
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11 Comments »

1. Thank you, Mr Tester This is one of the many issues I was waiting on you to make some kind of a position statement.

   While I disagree with some of your stance (I think that the "War on Terror" as we are waging it today, anyway is both short sighted and misguided, you have at least acknowledged the need to bring our troops out of Iraq This is more than the current administration is willing to do

   Comment by Moorcat November 9, 2005 @ 11.38 am

2. Comment from Eastern MT Roosevelt County traditionally votes Democratic A get acquainted visit here in the next month or so for a fund raiser could be coupled with visits to the other E M centers Highlights for Roosevelt Co would to touch base with the area Dems and the Tribal leadership John Morales elected Tribal Chairman and after talking with him yesterday indications are that he would welcome a meeting and maybe offer public support. Let me know if you want to set something up best, Sam Boor

   Comment by Sam Boor — November 9, 2005 @ 12:02 pm

3. Re your statement on Iraq When suggesting a pull out of troops, please put emphasis on a prior diplomatic agreement first. Always stress the importance of stability as a prerequisit for troop removal See comments by Gen Wesley Clark on the subject of diplomacy in settling the Iraq mess
   Also, troop removal can be piecemeal Ex. First get them out of Kurdistan where they (the Kurds) seem to be doing quite well by themselves Thanks, Sam Boor

   Comment by Sam Boor — November 9, 2005 @ 12.10 pm

4. My comment on a possible visit to Eastern MT erroneously attributed to "moorcat"
   Thanks, Sam Boor

   Comment by Sam Boor — November 9, 2005 @ 12.13 pm

5. [ ] Tester has come out with an official position on Iraq, which is nice for all those commenters demanding that he do so here You can comment on his position in this thread at Tester Time Generally, his stance seems reasonable to me, and his thoughts are fairly representative of my values, when it comes to Iraq In short, his position is this Iraq is too costly both to our soldiers and to our homeland security, and we need an exit strategy now [link] [ ]

   Pingback by Left in the West » Blog Archive » Tester on Iraq November 9, 2005 @ 12.27 pm

6. I am a Vietnam combat veteran My son is an Iraq combat veteran In both wars, failure in the leadership (of both parties) undercut the work and sacrifice of the soldiers Soldiers get little say in policy As Tennyson said, theirs is not to reason why, theirs is to do or die We are very fortunate to have men and women who will do as their country orders
   But our leadership should not break faith with those marvelous men and women in the armed forces Iraq was ill conceived I think Bush rushed in with too few troops in '03 because he thought his war would get away from him if he waited to collect enough troops Two Divisions were already in the middle of deployment, the 4th ID and my son's 1st AD, but he couldn't wait for them The international climate and findings, now known to be correct, by UN inspectors that there was no evidence of a current weapons of mass distruction program, may have eventually made his war politically unwise If you give him the benefitof the doubt he may have actually believed that our troops would rapidly find the "smoking gun" on WMD that would silence his critics So he moved on the basis of using the still heated anger of US citizens over 9 11 to convince a majority (at the time) that invading Iraq was "doing something" about 9 11

   It's interesting how the arguments now are so similar to vietnam, ("Well, maybe we shouldn't have gone in, but we can't just pull out now!") Remember that one, baby boomers?
   It seems we are on another war of attrition as in 1960-73 We have help set up a government with honorable aims democracy But it's unlikely to survive in the near term without the military support of American troops

   I know many professional soldiers who have strong misgivings about the way the "chickenhawks," many of whom have never worn our country's uniform, are directing this war
   Conrad Burns is just just party line, me too faithful to the Bush administration on this war He won't even join the free thinking Republican Senators Like McCain, Hegel, Collins, et. al in asking legitimate questions about the war
   We need a Senator who is not afraid to ask the tough questions, even if a Democrat occupies the White House in January 2009 We need Jon Tester in the U S Senate

   Comment by Alan Johnson November 9, 2005 @ 2.13 pm

7. I don't quite know what to make of this, but it's great to see an Eastern Montanan on the lefty blogsphere

   Comment by grannyinsanity November 9, 2005 @ 2.18 pm

8. Senator Tester I am pleased to see your position on withdrawing our troops from Iraq However, by continuing to supporting the so called "war on terrorism", won't we be inclined as a nation to continue to be the world's policeman? This is not a good strategy and will likely only fan the flames of those who already resent the U S foreign policy which by all appearances is intent on control of strategic resources If on the other hand we can join with the other responsible governments of the world to present a unified front in addressing the festering frustration of poverty, inequality, ignorance and perversions of any religious teaching won't we see a decline of terrorist's actions?

   Wouldn't be wiser to invest the untold billions we are using for wars, ineffective intelligence, hand outs to the oil industry, and other counter productive rat holes, and instead invest it on our own security Security based on renewable energy from wind, solar, biofuels, Security based on localized and regionalized food production and processing; Security from knowing that all citizens can have access to quality medical care, And the security that comes from knowing this country respects the Constitution and the Bill of Rights which emphasizes personal freedoms and responsibilities

   Comment by Jim Barngrover November 9, 2005 @ 4.47 pm

9. Right on Sen Tester As a Marine Corps Iraq Vet, I couldn't agree more with your demand that the Administration that bungled its way into this mess come up with a plan to get us out of it. They won't do it, of course, but their continuing failures in that regard will only make it more clear to the American People that it is time for these folks to go Fresh voices and fresh ideas are what is needed in Washington, and what is needed to deal with Muslim extremism Bush doesn't have the answer And neither do his yes-men in Congress like Connie Burns

   Comment by Jed Fitch November 9, 2005 @ 6.11 pm

10. Politically, calling for development of an exit strategy from Iraq makes sense Going in without one has obviously been a huge mistake on the part of the administration

    Morally and strategically speaking, it is the right thing to do

    The war on terror is an interesting phrase, because how do we fight a war on a tactic? Yes we want to be secure from attacks on civilians So does everyone the world over

    What I would like to see discussed is how we further security for civilians here and abroad I would like to see a discussion of what can be accomplished to diminish the rage against Americans for our policies abroad

    As I type, somewhere in Columbia peasants are having their 5 and 10 acre farms, their livestock and their families aerial sprayed with poison paid for by US taxpayers and carried out by US contractors This is a form of chemical warfare against a civilian population to achieve a political end

    Is this a policy that's likely to reduce anger against Americans?

    The "war on terror" is a catchy jingoist phrase, but what does it really mean in terms of policy and practice?

    "There can be no peace without justice" is another catchy jingoistic phrase, but at least I understand what it means

    Comment by John Q. Citizen November 10, 2005 @ 1.57 pm

11. Retired Marine Corps Colonel John Murtha is a Democratic Congressman from Pennsylvania Murtha spent 37 years in Marine Corps, earned the Bronze Star and two purple hearts For the last thirty years he's been one of the most respected voices in Congress on military issues

    Murtha has declared, "the war in Iraq is not going as advertised It's a flawed policy wrapped in illusion The United States and coalition troops have done all they can in Iraq But it's time for a change in direction It is evident that continued military action is not in the best interests of the United States of America, the Iraqi people or the Persian Gulf Region "

    The newest member of Congress, Ohio Republican Jean Schmidt took the floor of the House and claimed a Marine colonel in Iraq asked her to tell Congress to stay the course, and to send Congressman Murtha a message "that "cowards cut and run, Marines never do " This kind of bravado serves to get Americans killed unnecessarily

    In 1983, Ronald Reagan pulled our troops out of Lebanon after a suicide bomber killed 241 Marines in their Marine barrack. Did Reagan cut and run?

    Bush and his supporters in Congress have given us a false choice of cut and run or stay the course Historian James Chase has pointed out that staying the course makes as much sense as a sailor having been blown off course, continuing to blunder aimlessly across the ocean

    John Murtha didn't suggest, that we cut and run In fact, his plan was one of redeployment. He called for immediate redeployment of our troops consistent with their safety He suggests the creation of a quick reaction force in the region, and an over the horizon presence of Marines Murtha recommends that we diplomatically pursue security and stability in Iraq

    Comment by Jim O'Leary November 28, 2005 @ 7.14 pm

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Ravalli Democrats Welcome Tester

Jon was the keynote speaker at the Jefferson Jackson dinner in Hamilton this weekend In a mostly rural county that has long been considered a Republican stronghold, 150 people showed up to hear Jon and voice their support for Montana Democrats

Earlier in the day Jon met with a smaller group of Bitterroot valley residents in a town hall meeting to answer questions about issues important to them Jon spoke to the group about farming, ranching, and the future of Montana The group was most concerned about the future of family farm agriculture, energy independence, the cost of the war in Iraq, and economic development in Montana

The Ravalli Republic has the story on the town hall meeting on their website

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Apr 10, 2006 at 8.36 pm
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

No Comments »

No comments yet.

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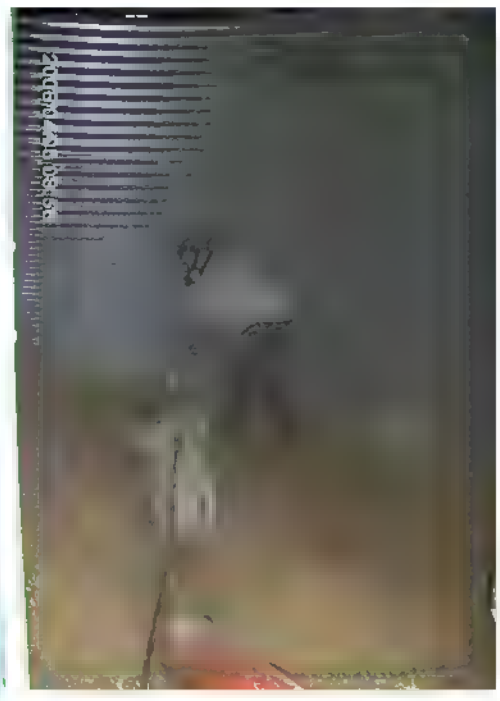
Springtime on the Hi Line

When Jon isn't talking to voters or in the office working on the campaign, he takes care of his day job- running the family farm outside of Big Sandy, MT

Yesterday Jon was hard at work loading grain and lentils into the semi to go to the cleaner



To load up the truck, Jon shovels the grain from the bin to the auger

The auger moves Jon's product from the bin to the semi. In this shot, Jon is loading lentils into the truck.

Once the truck is loaded, Jon takes the product to be cleaned. Yesterday he drove this load to Havre, MT

You'll notice that it's pretty gray outside in these shots. It's a perfect time for rain as Jon is looking to plant his crops in the coming weeks. We'll keep you posted as Jon plants on the farm and works with the grassroots on the campaign trail

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Apr 06, 2006 at 10:17 am
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

1 Comment »

1. Please, please tell me the campaign is getting some great "springtime in Montana" video footage (well, maybe wait for a sunny day) for the ad to define Jon to those who don't know him

   Comment by Lindabee in mt — April 6, 2006 @ 1:18 pm

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What We've Accomplished So Far

[Note. Jon sent the following email to supporters of the campaign today. To sign up to receive free email updates, click here.]

In the last three months, you raised more money for our campaign than any other Democrat in this race against Conrad Burns

Thanks to your efforts and support, we're reporting $324,000 raised in the third quarter, with a total of $382,000 raised since I entered the race in late May

But the most amazing thing is not the amount of money we've raised, but the number of people who have taken part in our effort to bring Montana values to Washington, D C

Nearly 3,000 individuals have contributed to this campaign, demonstrating that our support comes from the bottom up — from everyday working Montanans — and not from the top-down special interests who are financing Conrad Burns

Montanans are making it loud and clear that they want real change in Washington, D C

As I've traveled across the state, I've heard Montanans tell me that they want access to affordable health care for their families, good-paying jobs, and quality education for their kids

I've heard their concerns about protecting Social Security and their retirement income. And I've heard from many people the complaint that politicians in Washington just don't seem concerned about regular working people

But we're going to change that.

You've accomplished a tremendous amount in the last few months. But what we've accomplished together is just the beginning. Please take a moment to tell your friends about our campaign. Ask them to join us in the fight to bring real change to Washington. They can join for free by visiting this link:

http://www.testerforsenate.com/join/

And if you haven't yet done so, please consider volunteering for the campaign. Your time and commitment can make a huge difference in winning this race. You can sign up to lend a hand by visiting this link.

Thank you all for all that you do,

Jon Tester

Posted by **Guest Writer** on Oct. 17, 2005 at 12:22 pm
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

1 Comment »

1 [ ] Let's hope so. In related News: Thanks to your efforts and support, we're reporting $324,000 raised in the third quarter. But the most amazing thing is not the amount of money we've raised, but the number of people who have taken part. Nearly 3,000 individuals have contributed to this campaign, demonstrating that our support comes from the bottom up — from everyday working Montanans — and not from the top-down special interests who are financing Conrad Burns. [ ]

Pingback by Left in the West » Blog Archive » Its Official... — October 19, 2005 @ 9:31 am

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Fundraising Update

As of **3:45 PM MST**,
we've received **20 online donations**
in December for a total of **$2,145.02**.

21.45% of the way to the goal!

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Dec 08, 2005 at 4:48 pm
Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

No Comments »

No comments yet.

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Jon Sends a "Loud and Clear" Message to the Democratic Party

Check out Jon's latest diary at Daily Kos In it, he reflects on the legislative session, the special session, and the effectiveness of politics of principle

He also highlights *The Nation*'s latest editorial, in which the magazine says that the election of candidates like Jon won't just send a signal to Washington that times are changing, but also send a message to the Democratic Party

It's a must read

Also, if you haven't had a chance yet, you should check out Governor Schweitzer's talk following the special session, you should check it out. He has some high words of praise for our man Jon Tester

Honestly, check it out and share it with your friends

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Dec 29, 2005 at 3 18 pm
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

2 Comments »

1. Great rallying cry from Jon Glad to see it and his position on "The Patriot Act" Real Progressives want us out of Iraq, both military and, as John Edwards has called for, the contractors who are the real source of aggravation I would like to see Jon's take on Alito and a more detailed plan for working towards a healthcare system that works beyond the bandaids of lowering the cost of prescription drugs Good start, but we need Universal heathcare True progressives also put election reform at the top of every platform We need to get the money out of politics I will give money if I know it will go towards town forums instead of stupid TV ads that only make the ad agencies wealthy True progressives are dedicated to equality and justice for all, as our founders intended It's time that the corporations paid their share and those making $35,000 or less be free from taxes Breaking the power of capital is what progressivism is Not just a less icky name than liberal

   Comment by Montana Maven December 30, 2005 @ 9.10 am

2. Jon, I'm a native Nebraskan who's dedicating most of his blood and sweat (not too mention money) to our wonderful Democratic candidates here in the Cornhusker state, but you're courage and dedication has convinced me to scrounge up a hunred dollars to donate to your noble efforts way out there in Big Sky country God willing, there will be more coming soon Thank you and good luck!

   Comment by Ryan Anderson December 30, 2005 @ 11:09 pm

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Ken Camp: "Jon Tester is down-to-earth and knows how to win in Republican territory."

Common Sense: Support Jon Tester for U.S. Senate

> Last Thursday night, I had the privilege of meeting Jon Tester, President of the Montana State Senate and a candidate for U.S. Senate. Jon and his wife Sharla are also organic family farmers.
>
> [...]
>
> While Jon will get elected to represent Montana in the United States Senate, Jon represents our values and will stand up for our interests. Conrad Burns only stands up for the special interests.
>
> [...]
>
> Jon is down-to-earth and knows how to win in Republican territory. He doesn't speak in long drawn-out sentences with words the average person would have to look up in a dictionary. Jon will seriously cut into Conrad Burns' base, but he needs our support.
>
> As someone who supports Jon Tester, I'm asking you to visit www.testerforsenate.com today and consider making a donation. As the father of 10 month old Connor, I'm concerned about what the future will bring. Conrad Burns will mortgage my son's future, while Jon Tester will ensure that Connor has a future. The choice for me is simple. Jon Tester must be elected to the U.S. Senate.
>
> Please also consider forwarding this post to 5 friends who share our commitment to electing progressive Democrats.

Posted by **Matt Singer** on Aug. 23, 2005 at 3:28 am
Comments: Grow the Campaign – Forward This to a Friend

3 Comments »

1. Just saw the blog for the first time and was pleasantly surprised to see my post from my own blog. I'm based in Washington state, but am doing all I can to encourage folks to support Jon. Keep up the good work and let me know if I can be of further help.

   Comment by Ken Camp — August 30, 2005 @ 9:45 pm

2. This evening on a wintry night in Missoula, I had the good fortune to meet Jon Tester. My state senator, Greg Lind, had called yesterday to invite me and I jumped at the chance.

   My history in Montana politics does not run very deep. In '04 was my first experience getting involved as I hosted a house party to generate volunteers for No on I-147. That was a satisfying victory for the many of us in Montana who value clean water over short-term profit for out of state companies and leave us with long-term clean-up. Since then I've been reading a lot, but had not yet picked my next project. Meeting Jon tonight convinced me that his campaign is deserving of my support.

   Why Jon Tester? I trust him. He is geniune and down to earth. He's a farmer who has earned the trust of his predominately Republican district who strongly supported him for re-election.

   When Jon Tester talks about policy, he makes sense. And, I agree with him. He has concrete ideas for how to improve our energy approach including utilizing many Montana assets like biofuels. As well, he is more interested in supporting the everyday American than in propping up multinational corporations whose profits go to out of sight shareholders.

   With Jon Tester, I get the strong sense that he has lived a life that most of us can relate to. Talking with him, I trust that he values individuals more than the power associated with political office. Jon Tester strikes me as a down-to-earth, intelligent individual who has the talent to make positive things happen in government, rather than a politician who may have the savvy to make people feel he (or she) understands. To me that's an important difference.

   Comment by Aaron Derry — December 1, 2005 @ 11:18 pm

3. **morgage**

   nations embarked pavements!solidarity?swamped Barnum Niger arranger immunities home equity http://www.mortgage-time.info/

   Trackback by morgage — May 18, 2006 @ 2:57 pm

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Help Us Wrap Montana in Blue!

[Note Jon sent the following email out today To sign up to receive emails, click here]

When the Holidays are over, we'll be just six months out until Primary Day

I want to thank you for all your support already Together, we've helped move the debate forward on Iraq, on our nation's energy policy, and on the Medicare prescription drug plan And we've sent a strong message to Senator Burns that he needs to protect public access to public lands for all Montanans and that we Montanans don't want our public lands sold off

In the next six months, I'll continue to stand up for the values that we share And I'll continue to lay out my platform for working families in Montana

But to win on Primary Day, and defeat Conrad Burns in November, we need to take our campaign to the next level by ramping up our grassroots field efforts Our goal is to raise $10,000 for our field efforts, so we can "wrap Montana in blue" next year

http://www.testerforsenate.com/december/

Our support across the state is strong We have volunteers chomping at the bit to win the primary and send Conrad Burns packing in November But we need your commitment today to empower our grassroots support in the New Year Please, consider making a special gift to our campaign at this time.

We already know what our opponents plan to do in this race They plan to raise as much money from high dollar sources as they can, hoping that their bundles of money will conceal how out of touch they are with working Montanans

But we are going to beat them the old fashioned Montana way by spreading the word, neighbor to neighbor, and letting people know that in 2006 we have the opportunity to send real Montana values to Washington

But we need your support to get that word out Please, donate today, and help us meet our goal

Together, we'll Wrap Montana in Blue for 2006

Jon Tester

[Cross posted at Daily Kos.]

Posted by **Guest Writer** on Dec 07, 2005 at 10:05 am
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

2 Comments »

1. Hey Thanks for the new content, looks great Last 3 donation links are dead, though

   Take Care,

   Dan

   Comment by Dan December 7, 2005 @ 10.43 am

2. Fixed Thanks

   Comment by Guest Writer December 7, 2005 @ 10.54 am

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Thank You!

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jul 01, 2006 at 8:34 am
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Declaring Our Independence in Montana

[Jon sent the following email to campaign supporters earlier today. Want to stay in the loop? join the campaign today.]

Earlier this month, on June 6th, Montanans sent a loud message to the press and pundits and to the political establishment in Washington, D C the 2006 election in Montana is not for sale to the highest bidder

We won on June 6th because of your strong grassroots support spending just $11 per vote compared to more than $50 that Senator Burns spent for each of his

Now is the time to send the message again. As we enter the long 4th of July weekend, we'll pass the end of the quarter fundraising deadline at midnight, this Friday, June 30th

How well we do will make a tremendous difference in our efforts to declare Montana's independence from the pay to play culture of Conrad Burns and Washington, D C

http://www.testerforsenate.com/contribute

The fact is, Conrad Burns and his cronies are running scared and the beltway Republicans are nervous They know that if they lose this Senate seat to our campaign, they could lose control of the U S Senate

And they know from my record that when I get to Washington, I won't be looking the other way from the culture of corruption that has poisoned our political process

That's why Conrad Burns is busy going on bended knee to his lobbyist friends because he'll need a dumptruck load of his special interest money to try to confuse voters about his record and hold on to his seat

I need your help today to make sure we have the resources to fight back against their attack ads and to make the U S Senate look a bit more like Montana honest, ethical, and hardworking

http://www.testerforsenate.com/contribute

I believe this election is about our independence something we value highly here in Montana

It's time for Montana to declare our independence from the pay to play culture of Conrad Burns and the DC establishment

It's time for us to declare our independence from a political system where attack ads and special interest money rule the day

It's time for us to declare our independence from elected officials who choose to represent big money over working people

And it's time for us to declare our independence from an energy policy that leaves us held hostage to events in the Middle East and it's time for us to build a new energy policy that brings jobs to Montana and strengthens our national security by making our nation independent of Middle Eastern oil

Together, we can do that But it will only happen if you take action along with the thousands of others who are reading this message today

http://www.testerforsenate.com/contribute

If everyone contributes whatever amount they can afford, we will have the resources we need to defeat Conrad Burns and move this country forward to a place that looks a bit more like the Montana we know and love

http://www.testerforsenate.com/contribute

Thank you for taking action.

Jon Tester

P S Our goal is to raise $50,000 by Friday at midnight

Please, give what you can today.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun 27, 2006 at 3 53 pm
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

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Tester, Time

Time Magazine's Joe Klein has noticed our people powered campaign, calling Tester's flattop "the best symbol" for Democratic progress in the U S Senate this year After visiting Montana and watching the first debate, Klein has come to understand the down to earth popular connection Jon Tester has to Montanans, and the grassroots team supporting him this year

> Indeed, Tester's physical presence—he's a big old farm boy with a flattop crew cut—is a political statement that stands close to the heart of the national Democratic congressional campaign of 2006. It says, I'm not a slick Washington guy I'm a Montana farmer

The contrast between Montana's Tester and Washington D C 's Conrad Burns was clear at the first debate Klein picks out a few zingers, including this exchange

> Asked about alternative fuels in his first debate with Burns, Tester went full court farmer "If I weren't here right now," he said, "I'd be out getting a vegetable press so I could press my own oil to burn in my tractors and trucks " There wasn't much Burns could say to that He had been out Montana'd He tried to blame the Democrats for blocking energy legislation "Last time I checked," Tester shot back, "your party controlled the presidency and both houses of Congress " Which may be the ultimate comeback Democrats have this year

There were a number of these moments during the debate Senator Burns' silence on important issues like alternative fuels underlines the contrast in this race and clearly illustrates to Montanans just how long he's been lost in the fray in Washington, D C

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jul 05, 2006 at 7 08 pm
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

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Tester Crushes Burns in First Debate

Check out Daily Kos for the story.

Ed in Montana liveblogged this, the first debate between Jon Tester and Senator Burns

On fiscal responsibility:

> "Tester: In the past five years, Bush and the U.S. Congress has been fiscally irresponsible, running up enormous deficits. I am not into tax and spend, but you, Conrad, are into borrow and spend, and passing on huge debts to our children. Not too long ago our country had a balanced budget and was paying down the national debt."

Ed's general observations

> "Burns: Repeated a lot of standard repub talking points. Now in his late 70s, he is a lot slower on his feet than even in 2000 when he barely beat back Brian Schweitzer to retain his senate seat. Burn's folksy charm (what little there is) is really wearing thin with many voters. His closing statement was the strongest part of the debate for him, when he focuses on the pork barrel projects he has brought to Montana.
>
> Tester: Jon Tester is very quick on his feet and almost never let a charge from Burns go un-answered. In my view he comes across as very smart and likable to the general Montana public. Tester won this debate hands down on the likability factor alone."

Check out Ed's review for more of the play-by-play.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun. 26, 2006 at 9:30 am
Comments | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

6 Comments »

1. go to digg's new politics section and vote this story up! digg is powerful and just opened up the politics section today. this is a great, easy way to publicize this story!

   http://digg.com/politics/Tester_Crushes_Burns_in_First_Debate

   tester crushes burns!

   Comment by glitch p-udding — June 26, 2006 @ 12:03 pm

2. Thanks Andy for linking to my DailyKos diary! My apologies if I am far off on quotes from Senator Tester, since I was frantically scribbling away while watching the debate.

   Do you know if anyone has done a transcript yet?

   Go Tester!

   Comment by Ed in Montana — June 26, 2006 @ 2:20 pm

3. Looks like our boy, Jon Tester crushed Corrupt Conrad Burns. I talk about his chances on my blog as well. My prediction is that Tester will win by a solid 10 points.

   Comment by PoliticalCritic — June 26, 2006 @ 2:20 pm

4. Burns is a doddering fool, but would it surprise anyone that Montanians will vote for a doddering fool anyway?

   Comment by kerplunk — June 26, 2006 @ 6:36 pm

5. Judging by how many times Burns kept returning to 9/11, Tester should establish a few truths on the first mention of the Iraq war:

   > We got rid of a brutal dictator who ruled by fear. And that's a good thing. A fear monger, whether it's in Iraq or North Korea, who constantly scares his citizens with threats of violence and terror should be denounced. It's unbecoming of a mature democracy.
   >
   > Then the next time Burns pivots any question into an opportunity to say, 'terror, terror, 9/11, 9/11.' Tester can say, I'm not interested in fear mongering, I'm interested in solutions.
   > It works.

   Comment by fred — June 27, 2006 @ 1:04 am

6. You guys obviously saw what you wanted to see. Tester obviously didn't know what was even in the immigration bill they discussed, and he came off as evasive when he wouldn't answer the question. And when Senator Burns thanked Tester for taking HIS view on immigration, Tester should have protested a little, and didn't. There was no victory that I saw.

   Comment by Eric Coobs — June 28, 2006 @ 3:49 pm

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Mailbag

We've seen a steady pace of letters to the editor since the primary. And from the looks of things, Montanans aren't going to let Senator Burns take a summer vacation. This, from the letters page of the Billings Gazette

> They are insulting our intelligence, especially since they take off after a "flat top." That would be funny if it were not so important for us to elect somebody who will really try to represent us and our state. Burns' consultants might tell us what Conrad Burns thinks instead of what they think Jon Tester believes.
>
> I hope we will all register and vote for Tester. Let's show these high priced, out-of-state flunkies that we can think for ourselves.
>
> Sally Jordan
> Billings

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun. 28, 2006 at 10:52 am
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

3 Comments »

1. Dear Mr. Jon Tester

   I have been a Republican, for all my voting life, but with what I see as the erosion of our freedoms by the party that is in power I am sick. For your reference I am a highly decorated disabled Vietnam VET.

   All I can say is go for it, challenge the issues and stay away from the mud.

   By the way I have been on Max's' side 49% of the time. Which goes back 20 odd years, he has given me his points and I have given him my points. However, I respect him for the way he stands his ground.

   Respectfully

   Robert L. Perry
   135 MT Hwy 2 E
   Whitehall, MT 59759

   (406) 287-9162

   Comment by Bob Perry — June 29, 2006 @ 5:37 pm

2. I am going to tell you the same thing I told conrad burns. We as the public are sick to death of your bashing back and forth and every time we turn on the tv or the radio there you are ..... we have heard it..... we are tired of it and if we have to listen to it from June to November I am not even going to vote because I am already sick to death of seeing your faces on my television and hearing your voices on the radio. why dont you take about a 4 month break and save yourself some money.

   Comment by connie faulkner — June 29, 2006 @ 9:24 pm

3. sick and tired

   Comment by connie faulkner — June 29, 2006 @ 9:26 pm

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Debate Digest

Don Pogreba writes a hard hitting editorial in this week's Queen City News, analyzing Senator Burns performance in the Whitefish debate and critiquing the mainstream media response to the event. Pogreba points out a number of contradictions and falsehoods, including Senator Burns' spin sessions on Iraq, port security, and energy policy. My favorite is Senator Burns' attempt to appear fiscally responsible.

> Most transparently, he claimed that the Republican controlled government was "retiring the deficit", even though 2003-2007 will be the five years with the largest deficits in American history.

The fact check is a great exercise — after stepping back to looking things over, Pogreba calls for deeper coverage of issues in the mainstream media. Sound interesting? Stop by QCN to read the whole story.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jul. 05, 2006 at 7:33 pm
Comments: Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

2 Comments »

1. Let's also not forget about the total BS line from Burns about 9/11 terrorists coming in from Canada. But then, when you've taken as many bribes as he has it might be hard to distinguish between the truth and a myth.

   Comment by Chris O. — July 6, 2006 @ 8:19 pm

2. I am not sure if this is the correct place to place my comments, and if it isn't, I am sorry.
   I wish the Tester campaign would be more aggressive about going after Burns and the Republican policies and their vicious nasty campaign tricks.
   For example, Burns hookey "haircut" ad. Tester should should come back with an ad showing a picture of him and Burns. Under Tester's picture four words: Montana haircut. Montana values Under Burns picture, four more words: Auctioneer haircut. no values!
   Another perfect ad would be showing Burns as an auctioneer, saying "how much on my vote" then the prices escalate upwards, ending in "SOLD, to Jack Abramoff!!
   Tester needs to define Burns as the carpet bagging con man from Missouri that he is, he needs to connect Burns to Carl Rove, Tom Delay, Cheney and all the big money men from Washington, DC.
   A perfect way to do that would be an ad showing people and asking the reader/viewer if they can tell who the person is and what they do by their haircut. The, show Burn with those Washington crooks, and emphasize "NO! But you can tell a man by his friends, and THESE (Abramoff, Rove, Delay) are Burns friends. They outed a CIA agent, took bribes and corruted out democracy!!"
   Please, please Mr. Tester, take the fight to Burns. Define HIM, don't let him define you so that you have to spend the rest of the campaign combatting his lies. America can't take much more of the Republican corruption.

   Fred C. Royce
   Bozeman, Mt

   Comment by Fred C. Royce — July 7, 2006 @ 9:53 am

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Hotline: "we're sorry we EVER underestimated Tester."

The Hotline updated their top ten senate races today — Chuck Todd and Quinn McCord had this to say about Montana

> **2. Montana [Burns (R), Last Ranking: 2]**
>
> *If any race other than Pennsylvania ever occupies our top slot, it will be this one. After watching the first of what we believe will be many Tester Burns debates, we're sorry we EVER underestimated Tester. How wrong we were about this guy. Perhaps the most intriguing development over the last month is the pessimism we're sensing from D.C. Republicans over Burns — more so, frankly, than the worry we're hearing over Santorum.*

Check out the Hotline for the whole top ten

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun 28, 2006 at 11:08 am
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

1 Comment »

1. [...] Tester Time has it. From the Hotline, the publication that defines inside the beltway thinking and conventional wisdom and that just knew last year that Morrison was the best candidate to beat Burns. If any race other than Pennsylvania ever occupies our top slot, it will be this one. After watching the first of what we believe will be many Tester Burns debates, we're sorry we EVER underestimated Tester. How wrong we were about this guy. Perhaps the most intriguing development over the last month is the pessimism we're sensing from D.C. Republicans over Burns — more so, frankly, than the worry we're hearing over Santorum. [...]

   Pingback by Left in the West » Blog Archive » Heh. Hotline Flips. DC Republicans Scurred. — June 28, 2006 @ 12:41 pm

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Tester Changing the Map

A couple weeks back, Jon Tester broke through to the final round of Gov. Mark Warner's MapChangers contest. Only 10 candidates out of the original field of 40 made the cut. Now we need your help to put Jon over the top — voting only takes a couple of minutes and every vote counts.

http://www.forwardtogetherpac.com/mapchangers

At the site, you can read a biography and hear a brief message from each candidate. The contest ends Monday night so be sure to vote and hear Jon's message today.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jul. 07, 2006 at 3:40 pm
Comments: 1 Comment | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

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Tester, Time

Time Magazine's Joe Klein has noticed our people powered campaign, calling Tester's flattop "the best symbol" for Democratic progress in the U.S. Senate this year. After visiting Montana and watching the first debate, Klein has come to understand the down to earth popular connection Jon Tester has to Montanans, and the grassroots team supporting him this year.

> Indeed, Tester's physical presence — he's a big old farm boy with a flattop crew cut — is a political statement that stands close to the heart of the national Democratic congressional campaign of 2006. It says, I'm not a slick Washington guy. I'm a Montana farmer.

The contrast between Montana's Tester and Washington D.C.'s Conrad Burns was clear at the first debate. Klein picks out a few zingers, including this exchange:

> Asked about alternative fuels in his first debate with Burns, Tester went full-court farmer. "If I weren't here right now," he said, "I'd be out getting a vegetable press so I could press my own oil to burn in my tractors and trucks." There wasn't much Burns could say to that. He had been out-Montana'd. He tried to blame the Democrats for blocking energy legislation. "Last time I checked," Tester shot back, "your party controlled the presidency and both houses of Congress." Which may be the ultimate comeback Democrats have this year.

There were a number of these moments during the debate. Senator Burns' silence on important issues like alternative fuels underlines the contrast in this race and clearly illustrates to Montanans just how long he's been lost in the fray in Washington, D.C.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jul. 05, 2006 at 7:08 pm
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

Thank You!

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jul. 01, 2006 at 8:34 am
Comments: None | Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

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My Friend Jon Tester

[Governor Schweitzer sent the following email to our supporters today Join the campaign to get these updates immediately]

Jon Tester and I share the same strong Montana roots

His grandparents homesteaded 20 miles from my grandparents, and Jon and I were born in the same hospital in Havre, Montana

In public service here in Montana, we live by one test: what's best for the people of this great state Jon and I are working together here in Montana, living by that simple rule, to move Montana forward Last year, I worked closely with Jon when he served as President of the Montana Senate Jon and I led the fight for a prescription drug benefit for seniors, eliminated taxes on 13,000 small businesses, and delivered a plan to make Montana a national leader on renewable energy all while balancing the budget and without raising taxes

We need more of that kind of leadership Let's send Jon to represent Montana in the U.S Senate

http://www.testerforsenate.com/contribute

I know Senator Burns will pull out all the stops to stay in power

Please help Jon Tester with a contribution today

http://www.testerforsenate.com/contribute

We've cleaned up government in Helena Now it's time to clean up Washington, D C

It's time for a change Jon Tester has broad enough shoulders, strong enough convictions, enough Montana in his soul, that he will never allow some corporate lobbyist to change his vote

Montanans already have one strong voice in the U S Senate Please join me in supporting Jon Tester to bring Montana values and our convictions to the U S Senate I wrote a personal check for $2,100 Please match my commitment to change in Washington, D C , by contributing what you can today

Sincerely,

Brian Schweitzer

Governor Brian Schweitzer

P S Please forward this message to your friends and ask them to join Jon on his grassroots campaign

http://www.testerforsenate.com/join

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jun 29, 2006 at 11 09 am
Comments Grow the Campaign Forward This to a Friend

No Comments »

No comments yet.

TrackBack URI

Leave a comment

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Tester Changing the Map

A couple weeks back, Jon Tester broke through to the final round of Gov. Mark Warner's MapChangers contest. Only 10 candidates out of the original field of 40 made the cut. Now we need your help to put Jon over the top—voting only takes a couple of minutes and every vote counts.

http://www.forwardtogetherpac.com/mapchangers

At the site, you can read a biography and hear a brief message from each candidate. The contest ends Monday night so be sure to vote and hear Jon's message today.

Posted by **Andy Tweeten** on Jul. 07, 2006 at 3:40 pm
Comments: Grow the Campaign | Forward This to a Friend

1 Comment »

1. already did it and it took less then a minute

Comment by Jess Grennan — July 7, 2006 @ 4:45 pm

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Article **Tester, Time** Will Be Send To Your Friend

*** Required**

Your Name: *

Your E-Mail: *

Your Remarks:

Friend's Name: *

Friend's E-Mail: *

Mail It!

tester time!

Your email address | Join the campaign

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Hrm.

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because page does not exist

Click here to search for all archived pages under
http://www.testerforsenate.com/

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WayBack Machine

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Hrm.

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    JAVASCRIPT APPENDE D BY WAYBACK MACH NE, COPYR GHT  NTERNET ARC HIVE

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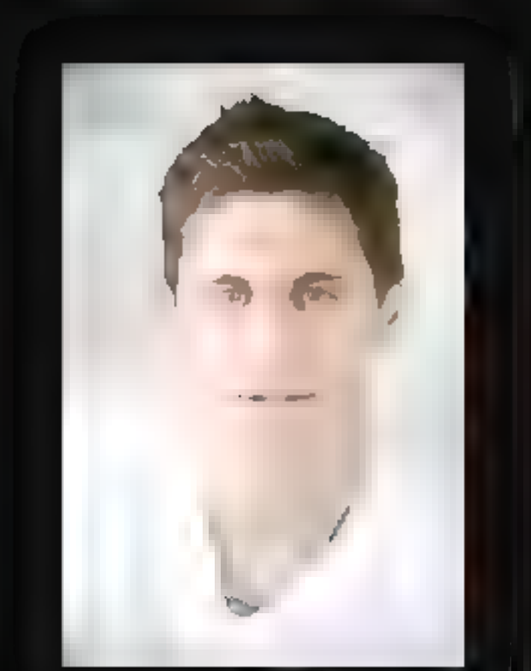

It's Tester's Time...

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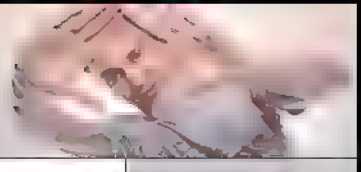

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- FAILURE OF OUR SITE TO PERFORM IN THE MANNER YOU EXPECTED OR DESIRED
- ERROR ON OUR SITE
- OMISSION ON OUR SITE
- INTERRUPTION OF AVAILABILITY OF OUR SITE
- DEFECT ON OUR SITE
- DELAY IN OPERATION OR TRANSMISSION OF OUR SITE
- COMPUTER VIRUS OR LINE FAILURE
- PLEASE NOTE THAT WE ARE NOT LIABLE FOR ANY DAMAGES INCLUDING
  - DAMAGES INTENDED TO COMPENSATE SOMEONE DIRECTLY FOR A LOSS OR INJURY
  - DAMAGES REASONABLY EXPECTED TO RESULT FROM A LOSS OR INJURY (KNOWN IN LEGAL TERMS AS "CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES")
  - OTHER MISCELLANEOUS DAMAGES AND EXPENSES RESULTING DIRECTLY FROM A LOSS OR INJURY (KNOWN IN LEGAL TERMS AS "INCIDENTIAL DAMAGES")

WE ARE NOT LIABLE EVEN IF WE'VE BEEN NEGLIGENT OR IF OUR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE HAS BEEN ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES OR BOTH.

EXCEPTION: CERTAIN STATE LAWS MAY NOT ALLOW US TO LIMIT OR EXCLUDE LIABILITY FOR THESE "INCIDENTAL" OR "CONSEQUENTIAL" DAMAGES. IF YOU LIVE IN ONE OF THOSE STATES, THE ABOVE LIMITATION OBVIOUSLY WOULD NOT APPLY, WHICH WOULD MEAN THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE THE RIGHT TO RECOVER THESE TYPES OF DAMAGES.

HOWEVER, IN ANY EVENT, OUR LIABILITY TO YOU FOR ALL LOSSES, DAMAGES, INJURIES, AND CLAIMS OF ANY AND EVERY KIND (WHETHER THE DAMAGES ARE CLAIMED UNDER THE TERMS OF A CONTRACT, OR CLAIMED TO BE CAUSED BY NEGLIGENCE OR OTHER WRONGFUL CONDUCT, OR THEY'RE CLAIMED UNDER ANY OTHER LEGAL THEORY) WILL NOT BE GREATER THAN THE AMOUNT YOU PAID, IF ANYTHING, TO ACCESS OUR SITE.

Links to Other Site

We sometimes provide referrals to and links to other World Wide Web sites from our site. Such a link should not be seen as an endorsement, approval or agreement with any information or resources offered at sites you can access through our site. If in doubt, always check the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) address provided in your WWW browser to see if you are still in a TesterTime.com operated site or have moved to another site. TesterTime.com is not responsible for the content or practices of third party sites that may be linked to our site. When TesterTime.com provides links or references to other Web sites, no inference or assumption should be made and no representation should be inferred that TesterTime.com is connected with, operates or controls these Web sites. Any approved link must not represent in any way, either explicitly or by implication, that you have received the endorsement, sponsorship or support of any TesterTime.com site or endorsement, sponsorship or support of TesterTime.com including its respective employees, agents or directors.

Termination of This Agreement

This agreement is effective until terminated by either party. You may terminate this agreement at any time by destroying all materials obtained from a TesterTime.com Website, along with all related documentation and all copies and installations. TesterTime.com may terminate this agreement at any time and without notice to you, if in its sole judgment, you breach any term or condition of this agreement. Upon termination, you must destroy all materials. In addition, by providing material on our Website, we do not in any way promise that the materials will remain available to you. And TesterTime.com is entitled to terminate all or any part of any of its Website without notice to you.

Jurisdiction and Other Points to Consider

If you use our site from locations outside of Thailand you are responsible for compliance with any applicable local laws.

These Terms of Use shall be governed by, construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of Thailand. Any action you, any third party or we bring to enforce these Terms or in connection with any matters related to this Website shall be brought only in the courts of Thailand and you expressly consent to the jurisdiction of said courts.

To the extent you have in any manner violated or threatened to violate TesterTime.com and/or its affiliates' intellectual property rights, TesterTime.com and/or its affiliates may seek injunctive or other appropriate relief in any state or federal court in Thailand, and you consent to exclusive jurisdiction and venue in such courts.

Any other disputes will be resolved as follows:

If a dispute arises under this agreement, we agree to first try to resolve it with the help of a mutually agreed-upon mediator in the following location: Chonburi, Thailand. Any costs and fees other than attorney fees associated with the mediation will be shared equally by each of us.

If it proves impossible to arrive at a mutually satisfactory solution through mediation, we agree to submit the dispute to binding arbitration at the following location: Chonburi, Thailand. Judgment upon the award rendered by the arbitration may be entered in any court with jurisdiction to do so.

TesterTime.com may modify these Terms of Use and the agreement they create at any time, simply by updating this posting and without notice to you. This is the ENTIRE agreement regarding all the matters that have been discussed.

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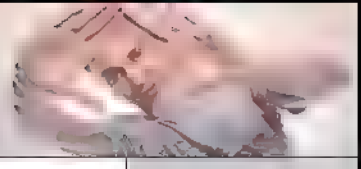

Tester Time Privacy Policy

TesterTime.com strives to offer its visitors the many advantages of internet technology and to provide an interactive and personalized experience. We may use Personally Identifiable Information (your name, e-mail address, street address, telephone number) subject to the terms of this privacy policy. We will never sell, barter, or rent your email address to any unauthorized third party. Period.

How we gather information from users.

How we collect and store information depends on the page you are visiting, the activities in which you elect to participate and the services provided. For example, you may be asked to provide information when you register for access to certain portions of our site or request certain features, such as newsletters or when you make a purchase. You may provide information when you participate in sweepstakes and contests, message boards and chat rooms, and other interactive areas of our site. Like most Web sites, TesterTime.com also collects information automatically and through the use of electronic tools that may be transparent to our visitors. For example, we may log the name of your Internet Service Provider or use cookie technology to recognize you and hold information from your visit. Among other things, the cookie may store your user name and password, sparing you from having to re-enter that information on each time you visit, or may control the number of times you encounter a particular advertisement while visiting our site. As we adopt additional technology, we may also gather information through other means. In certain cases, you can choose not to provide us with information, for example by setting your browser to refuse to accept cookies, but if you do you may be unable to access certain portions of the site or may be asked to re-enter your user name and password, and we may not be able to customize the site's features according to your preferences.

What we do with the information we collect.

Like other Web publishers, we collect information to enhance your visit and deliver more individualized content and advertising. We respect your privacy and do not share your information with anyone.

Aggregated information (information that does not personally identify you) may be used in many ways. For example, we may combine information about your usage patterns with similar information obtained from other users to help enhance our site and services (e.g., to learn which pages are visited most or what features are most attractive). Aggregated information may occasionally be shared with our advertisers and business partners. Again, this information does not include any Personally Identifiable Information about you or allow anyone to identify you individually.

We may use Personally Identifiable Information collected on TesterTime.com to communicate with you about your registration and customization preferences, our Terms of Service and privacy policy, services and products offered by TesterTime.com and other topics we think you might find of interest.

Personally Identifiable Information collected by TesterTime.com may also be used for other purposes, including but not limited to site administration, troubleshooting, processing of e-commerce transactions, administration of sweepstakes and contests and other communications with you. Certain third parties who provide technical support for the operation of our site (our Web hosting service, for example) may access such information. We will use your information only as permitted by law. In addition, from time to time as we continue to develop our business, we may sell, buy, merge or partner with other companies or businesses. In such transactions, user information may be among the transferred assets. We may also disclose your information in response to a court order, at other times when we believe we are reasonably required to do so by law, in connection with the collection of amounts you may owe to us, and/or to law enforcement authorities whenever we deem it appropriate or necessary. Please note we may not provide you with notice prior to disclosure in such cases.

Affiliated sites, linked sites and advertisements

TesterTime.com expects its partners, advertisers and affiliates to respect the privacy of our users. Be aware, however, that third parties, including our partners, advertisers, affiliates and other content providers accessible through our site, may have their own privacy and data collection policies and practices. For example, during your visit to our site you may link to, or view as part of a frame on a TesterTime.com page, certain content that is actually created or hosted by a third party. Also, through TesterTime.com you may be introduced to, or be able to access, information, Web sites, features, contests or sweepstakes offered by other parties. TesterTime.com is not responsible for the actions or policies of such third parties. You should check the applicable privacy policies of those third parties when providing information on a feature or page operated by a third party.

While on our site, our advertisers, promotional partners or other third parties may use cookies or other technology to attempt to identify some of your preferences or retrieve information about you. For example, some of our advertising is served by third parties and may include cookies that enable the advertiser to determine whether you have seen a particular advertisement before. Other features available on our site may offer services operated by third parties and may use cookies or other technology to gather information. TesterTime.com does not control the use of this technology by third parties or the resulting information, and is not responsible for any actions or policies of such third parties.

You should also be aware that if you voluntarily disclose Personally Identifiable Information on message boards or in chat areas, that information can be viewed publicly and can be collected and used by third parties without our knowledge and may result in unsolicited messages from other individuals or third parties. Such activities are beyond the control of TesterTime.com and this policy.

Children

TesterTime.com does not knowingly collect or solicit Personally Identifiable Information from or about children under 13 except as permitted by law. If we discover we have received any information from a child under 13 in violation of this policy, we will delete that information immediately. If you believe TesterTime.com has any information from or about anyone under 13, please contact us at the address listed below.

Contacting Us

We can be reached by contacting:

TesterTime.com

Email: webmaster @ TesterTime.com

Changes to this Policy

TesterTime.com reserves the right to change this policy at any time. Please check this page periodically for changes. Your continued use of our site following the posting of changes to these terms will mean you accept those changes. Information collected prior to the time any change is posted will be used according to the rules and laws that applied at the time the information was collected.

Governing law

This policy and the use of this Site are governed by English law. If a dispute arises under this Policy we agree to first try to resolve it with the help of a mutually agreed-upon mediator in the following location: Chonburi, Thailand. Any costs and fees other than attorney fees associated with the mediation will be shared equally by each of us.

If it proves impossible to arrive at a mutually satisfactory solution through mediation, we agree to submit the dispute to binding arbitration at the following location: Chonburi, Thailand. Judgment upon the award rendered by the arbitration may be entered in any court with jurisdiction to do so.

TesterTime.com is controlled, operated and administered entirely within the UK. This statement and the policies outlined herein are not intended to and do not create any contractual or other legal rights in or on behalf of any party.

The application of the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods, as amended, is expressly excluded.

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It's Tester's Time...

Tester Time

There are times when you wish you could go back again and undo something that you did when you were younger. One of the things that would certainly do if I had a time machine available is to go back and stop myself from ever picking up that first cigarette. I have to admit, during that time I felt that it was the best thing for me to do and although I did receive some pressure from my friends, it was more of a personal decision on my part that I should begin smoking in order to fit in with the general crowd. Unfortunately I never realized at that time exactly how difficult it would be to give up the habit.

That was junior high school and since that time I have married, had two children and I still continued to smoke approximately one pack of cigarettes every day. Over the years I had tried to give up smoking several times and I have used a number of different methods in order to do so. Cold turkey tended to work the best, and although I was never 100% successful trying that method at first, it was something that kept me from smoking many times for a month or more before I went back to the habit.

During the time that I was trying to give up smoking, there weren't a lot of the newer pharmaceutical methods for getting it up, such as the patch and certain types of laser surgery. As a matter of fact, the only two choices that I had were either to cut down on the amount that I was smoking or to give it up altogether. Nicotine gum was available at the time but it was so expensive that it was really outside of my reach, especially considering the fact that I was raising two children and was the only income in a single income family. It was less expensive for me to continue smoking than to use the nicotine gum to give it up.

I finally learned the secret of actually giving up the habit, and it's a secret that many people have not been no to come to grips with entirely. The simple fact of the matter is, unless you want to give up smoking it is highly unlikely that you are ever really going to go through with doing it. I had to thoroughly convince myself that I wanted to get rid of the habit before I finally was able to give it up altogether.

Another thing that most people don't realize is the fact that it is never going to be easy to kick the habit, and although some people will tell you that they were able to give up smoking without any problem at all, they are more the exception than the rule. As far as my addiction was concerned, I thought about it all day, every day for at least six months before it started to fade out of my memory a little bit. It was a constant struggle, but it was one that got a little bit easier as time went on. It wasn't that the desire became any less. It was the fact that more time had passed. It was the time that really helped me to give it up altogether.

That has been many years ago, and although I don't have the desire to go back to the habit again, there are times when it crosses my mind. The difference is, is simply a passing thought in said something that sticks around for the long term.

Several opinions inserted by classmates and friends of the author.

Electric carts are undoubtedly more popular on the golf course these days but there is still a very important role to be paid by gas golf carts when it comes to using your cart for other purposes.

Status is hugely important for lots of people and one excellent way to enhance your standing is to invest in one of the amazing Club Car Golf Carts available right now.

My college days were probably the happiest time of my life and if they are able to find some free money for college I hope that my own children are going to be able to experience this as well.

Choose one of the latest EZ GO golf carts on offer currently and see heads turn next time you are playing at your local golf course.

It is clear from the number of articles about obesity being issued today that gastric bypass surgery like the sleeve gastrectomy will almost certainly become as common in the years to come as going on a diet was in years past.

I was recently shopping for a good auto insurance plan at the best rate and was flabbergasted to see how straightforward it was to get free auto insurance quotes online.

Once you have worked your way through the term vs whole life insurance discussion then the internet is without doubt the best place to get free life insurance quotes now whether you are looking for a whole life insurance quote or a less pricey term life insurance quote.

Anybody who has ever experienced eczema or psoriasis will know the value in finding natural remedies for eczema and learning how to treat psoriasis quickly.

Many people these days is hunting for budget insurance and there is no better place to start hunting for items like inexpensive auto insurance than right here on the web.

The beginning of the year is a great time to get out your Weight Watchers point list and start enjoying those jumping rope benefits before the good weather arrives.

As things continue getting tight for many men and women nowadays we must not be too embarrassed to ask for debt assistance if we require it to make certain that we do not end up lining the pockets of a few more civil litigation lawyers who already earn for too much.

A sinus headache can be more than a little painful but is nothing to the pain of migraines. Migraine symptoms vary from one individual to the next as of course does migraine treatment.

Contact Us

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Terms of Use

HMHS Britannic
Mechanical Perception
Lightning Temple
Veolab Project
Salisbury Lyric Opera
Gajizmo
Sherzieve
Bryan Maltier
Petes Good
Mourning Silence
Baker Laporte
Bohemian Plates

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This XML file does not appear to have any style information associated with it. The document tree is shown below


```
▼<rss xmlns:content="http://purl.org/rss/1.0/modules/content/" xmlns:wfw="http://wellformedweb.org/CommentAPI/" xmlns:dc="http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/" xmlns:atom="http://www.w3.org/2005/Atom"
  xmlns:sy="http://purl.org/rss/1.0/modules/syndication/" xmlns:slash="http://purl.org/rss/1.0/modules/slash/" version="2.0">
  ▼<channel>
      <title>                                </title>
      <atom:link href="http://testertime.com/feed/" rel="self" type="application/rss+xml"/>
      <link>http://testertime.com</link>
      <description/>
      <lastBuildDate>Tue, 18 Aug 2015 09:54:41 +0000</lastBuildDate>
      <language>ja</language>
      <sy:updatePeriod>hourly</sy:updatePeriod>
      <sy:updateFrequency>1</sy:updateFrequency>
      <generator>http://wordpress.org/?v=4.1.10</generator>
    ▼<item>
        <title>                                </title>
        <link>http://testertime.com/06/</link>
        <comments>http://testertime.com/06/#comments</comments>
        <pubDate>Tue, 18 Aug 2015 09:54:41 +0000</pubDate>
      ▼<dc:creator>
          <![CDATA[admin]]>
        </dc:creator>
      ▼<category>
          <![CDATA[        ]]>
        </category>
        <guid isPermaLink="false">http://testertime.com/?p=28</guid>
      ▼<description>
          <![CDATA[                                                                [&#8230;]]]>
        </description>
        <wfw:commentRss>http://testertime.com/06/feed/</wfw:commentRss>
        <slash:comments>0</slash:comments>
      </item>
  </channel>
</rss>
```

This XML file does not appear to have any style information associated with it. The document tree is shown below


```
▼<rsd xmlns: "http://arch pe ago phrasewise.com/rsd" vers on "1.0">
  ▼<serv ce>
    <eng neName>WordPress</ eng:neName>
    <eng neL nk>http://wordpress.org/</eng neLink>
    <homePageL nk>http://testertime com</homePageL nk>
    ▼<ap s>
      <api name: "WordPress" b og D "1" preferred "true" ap L nk "http://testert me com/adm n/xm rpc php"/>
      <ap name "Movab e Type" b ogID "1" preferred "false" ap L nk "http / testert me com/adm n xm rpc php" />
      <ap name "MetaWeb og" b.og D: "1" preferred "false" ap L nk "http //testert me com/adm n/xm rpc.php"/>
      <ap name: "B ogger" blog D: "1" preferred "false" ap L nk "http //testert me com/adm n/xm rpc.php"/>
    </ apis>
  </service>
</ rsd>
```

```
/*
Theme Name: FloatingLight
Theme URI: http://www.wpart.org/wordpress-themes-floatinglight/
Description: Time is like a colorful and dazzling picture, a movement with cheerful notes, hustling and bustling earth, hoping to find one Pure Land, we will eventually move toward the cliff of the time, finally falling gracelessly, with the deep thoughts dashing. a wordpress theme for wpart.org
Version: 2.1
Author: xwenz
Author URI: http://www.WPart.org
Tags: black,blue,gray,white, fixed width, two-columns
License: GNU General Public License, v2 (or newer)
License URI: http://www.gnu.org/licenses/old-licenses/gpl-2.0.html
*/
/* CSS Document */
@charset "utf-8";
/* CSS Document */
body, div, dl, dd, #left-post h2.title, #left-page h2.title, .commentrank h3, h3#comments-title, h3.title3, h3#reply-title, .menu, .menu li a {
    padding:0;
    margin:0;
}
.fl {
    float: left;
}
.fr {
    float:right;
}
.img{ border: solid 2px #ccc;}
.a:hover .img{ border: solid 2px #666;}
.cb{ clear:both; }
body {
    background: #EDEAE3 url(/web/20160218171448im_/http://testertime.com/admin/wp-content/themes/floatinglight/images/bg_rpg.png) repeat-x;
    font-family: Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif;
    font-size: 12px;
    color: #555555;
}
.copyright {
    text-align:center;
    font-size: 12px;
    height:20px;
    color: #737373;
    padding-top: 30px;
}
.bottom {
    height: 73px;
    border-top:solid 5px #DBD7CA;
}
#header h1 {
    margin:0;
    padding:0;
}
#header .bg{ width: 100%; float:left; background-url(/web/20160218171448im_/http://testertime.com/admin/wp-content/themes/floatinglight/images/header.jpg) left top;}
#header {
    width:960px;
    padding-top: 30px;
    color:#BCE5EB;
    margin:0 auto;
}
#logo {
    color:#000000;
    font-size: 35px;
    display:block;
    font-weight: bold;
}
.menu {
    padding-top:8px;
    float: left;
}
.menu li {
    float: left;
    list-style: none;
    position:relative;
    margin-bottom:5px;
}
.menu li ul {
    display:none;
}
.menu li a {
    display:block;
    height:19px;
    padding:2px 15px 1px 15px;
    color:#000;
    font-size:14px;
    float: left;
    white-space:nowrap;
    font-weight: bold;
}
.menu li:hover a {
    -moz-border-radius:5px 5px 0 0px;
    border-radius:5 5px 5 5px;
    background-color:#fff;
}
.menu li a:hover, .menu li .current_page_item a {
    padding:1px 14px 0 14px;
    -moz-border-radius:5px 5 0 0px;
    border-radius:5 5px 5 5px;
    background-color:#fff;
    border-bottom:1px #E7E7E5;
    color:#1E9AB0;
}
.menu li:hover li a {
    -moz-border-radius:0;
    border-radius:0;
    border:none;
    display:block;
    background:#FFFFFF url(/web/20160218171448im_/http://testertime.com/admin/wp-content/themes/floatinglight/images/narrow-circle_gray.gif) no-repeat 4px 8px;
    padding:2px 15px 1px 15px;
    min-width:90px;
}
.menu li:hover li li a:hover{ background-color:#ddd;}
.menu li:hover ul {
    display:block;
    border:none;
    position:absolute;
    left:0;
    top:27px;
    z-index:10000;
    padding:0;
}
.menu li:hover li {
    box-shadow:0px 3px 3px rgba(0, 0, 0, 0.2);
    padding:0;
    min-width:120px;
    margin:0;
    height:22px;
}
.menu li:hover ul li ul{
    display:none;
}
.menu li:hover ul li:hover ul {
    display:block;
    left:100%;
    top:0;
}
.menu li:hover ul li a:hover, .menu li .current_page_item a {
    color:#5FB7C5;
    background:#F4F4F4 url(/web/20160218171448im_/http://testertime.com/admin/wp-content/themes/floatinglight/images/narrow-circle_blue.gif) no-repeat 4px 8px;
}
/**********************/
#img_bg, .bg{background-color:#EBE3DA; border-bottom: solid 1px #DBD7CA; padding:10px 0; float: left; width:100%;}
#img_bg{ width:960px; margin:0 auto;}

/**********************/

.wrap {
    width:960px;
    margin:15px auto;
    clear:both;
}

/**********************/
#left{ width:700px; float:left; background-color:#fff;    -moz-border-radius:0 15px 15px 0;
    border-radius:0 15px 15px 0;
    border-right:solid 1px #DFDCD0;
    border-bottom:solid 1px #DFDCD0;
}



#left .post,#left .page{ border-bottom:solid 1px #DFDCD0; }
#left .leftinfo{ width:82px; margin-right: 1px; border-right:solid 1px #DFDCD0; float:left; text-align:right; padding-right:8px;  line-height:20px;}
#left .leftinfo p{ margin:15px 0;}
#left .leftinfo a{ font-size:11px; color:#777370;}
#left .leftinfo a:hover{ color:#1E9AB0; text-decoration:underline;}
#left .leftinfo .date a{ color:#1E9AB0; font-size:20px; font-weight:bold; font-family:"Microsoft Sans Serif";}
#left .righttext{ width:589px; float:right; margin-left:0; border-left:solid 1px #DFDCD0; padding:15px 10px 20px;}
#left .righttext .entry{ font-size:11px; font-family:"Microsoft Sans Serif"; line-height:21px;}
.entry-meta a{ color:#1E9AB0;}
.entry a:hover{ text-decoration:underline;}

#left .post h2.title a, #left .page h2.title a {
    font-size:16px; font-family:"Microsoft Sans Serif";
}

/**********************/

#sidebar {
    width:220px;
    float:right;
    padding:5px 25px;
}
#sidebar h3.title3 {
    color:#1E9AB0;
    font-size:14px;
    font-family:"Microsoft Sans Serif";
    margin-top:20px;
}
#sidebar .wp-tab-panel #sidebar ul li div {
    padding:10px 0;
}
#sidebar .wp-tab-panel ul li{
    padding:0 10px;
}

#sidebar ul, #sidebar ul li {
    list-style:none;
    margin:0;
    padding:0;
}
#sidebar li li {
    line-height:2em;
    border-bottom:dashed 1px #AEADA9;
}
#sidebar li li:last-child{ border-bottom:none;}
#sidebar .wp-tab-panel a {
    background:url(/web/20160218171448im_/http://testertime.com/admin/wp-content/themes/floatinglight/images/narrow-circle_gray.gif) no-repeat left 5px;
    padding-left:15px;
}
#sidebar .widget_recent_comments li {
    background:url(/web/20160218171448im_/http://testertime.com/admin/wp-content/themes/floatinglight/images/narrow-circle_gray.gif) no-repeat left 12px;
    padding-left:15px;
}
#sidebar .widget_recent_comments li a, #sidebar .widget_recent_comments li a:hover, #sidebar li.widget_calendar a, #sidebar li.widget_calendar a:hover, #sidebar .widget_tag_cloud a, #sidebar .widget_tag_cloud a:hover {
    background:none;
}
#sidebar .wp-tab-panel a:hover {
    background:url(/web/20160218171448im_/http://testertime.com/admin/wp-content/themes/floatinglight/images/narrow-circle_blue.gif) no-repeat left 5px;
}
#wp-calendar {
    width:200px;
    text-align:center;
    line-height:25px;
}
#sidebar .widget_calendar #wp-calendar a {
    color:#5FB7C5;
    padding:0;
    margin:0;
}
#sidebar .widget_calendar #wp-calendar a:hover {
    text-decoration:underline;
}
#wp-calendar caption {
    font-weight:bold;
}
#sidebar .widget_tag_cloud a {
    padding:0;
    margin:0;
    line-height:25px;
    margin:0 3px;
}

.navigation {
    width:96%;
    padding:5px 2%;
    float: left;
}
.navigation .alignleft a{ background-url(/web/20160218171448im_/http://testertime.com/admin/wp-content/themes/floatinglight/images/narrow.gif) no-repeat left top; padding:6px 30px;    color:#5FB7C5; display:inline-block;
}
.navigation .alignright a{ background-url(/web/20160218171448im_/http://testertime.com/admin/wp-content/themes/floatinglight/images/narrow.gif) no-repeat right bottom; padding:6px 30px
color:#5FB7C5; display:inline-block;
}
a {
    text-decoration:none;
    color:#555555;
}
a:hover, a.more, .postinfo a:hover, .entry a{
    color:#5FB7C5;
}

/**********************/

h1.pagetitle{ text-align:center; border-bottom:solid 1px #DFDCD0; margin-bottom:0;}
/**********************/
.img's ze-auto, img.size-full, img's ze-large, img.size-medium, .attachment img {
    max-width: 577px; /* When images are too wide for containing element, force them to fit. */
    height: auto; /* Override height to match resized width for correct aspect ratio. */
}
.alignleft, img.alignleft {
    display:inline;
    float: left;
    margin-right: 24px;
    margin-top: 4px;
}
.alignright, img.alignright {
    display:inline;
    float: right;
    margin-left: 24px;
    margin-top: 4px;
}
.aligncenter, img.aligncenter {
    clear: both;
    display: block;
    margin-left: auto;
    margin-right: auto;
}
img.alignleft, img.alignright, img.aligncenter {
    margin-bottom: 12px;
}
.wp-caption {
    background: #f1f1f1;
    line-height: 18px;
    margin-bottom: 20px;
    max-width: 585px !important; /* prevent too-wide images from breaking layout */
    padding: 4px;
    text-align: center;
}
.wp-caption img {
    margin: 5px 5px 0;
}
.wp-caption p.wp-caption-text {
    color: #888;
    font-size: 12px;
    margin: 5px;
    float: none;
}
.wp-smiley {
    margin: 0;
}
.gallery {
    margin: 0 auto 18px;
}
#gallery-1 a:hover img,#gallery-2 a:hover img,#gallery-3 a:hover img,#gallery-4 a:hover img{ border:solid 2px #666;}
.gallery-galleryitem {
    float: left;
    margin-top: 0;
    text-align: center;
    width: 33%;
}
.gallery-columns-2 .gallery-item {
    width: 50%;
}
.gallery-columns-4 .gallery-item {
    width: 25%;
}
.gallery-columns-2 .attachment-medium {
    max-width: 92%;
    height: auto;
}
.gallery-columns-4 .attachment-thumbnail {
    max-width: 84%;
    height: auto;
}
.gallery .gallery-caption {
    color: #888;
    font-size: 12px;
    margin: 0 0 12px;
}
.gallery dl {
    margin: 0;
}
.gallery br+br {
    display: none;
}
.sticky {
}
.gallery .gallery-caption {
    color: #888;
    font-size: 12px;
    margin: 0 0 12px;
}
/**********************/
.commentlist, ol.commentlist, li.comment, li.pingback {
    list-style: none;
    margin: 0;
    padding: 0;
}
.commentlist li.comment {
    position: relative;
    margin: 0;
    padding: 0;
}
.commentlist li.comment .avatar {
    position: absolute;
    width: 30px;
    height: 25px;
    color: #999;
    display: block;
    left: 60px;
    top: 0;
    border-radius: 3px;
}
.commentlist li.comment .comment-body {
    margin: 0 0 0 100px;
    min-height: 50px;
}
.commentlist li.pingback {
    margin: 0 0 0 50px;
}
.commentlist li.comment .comment-author {
    line-height: 30px;
}
.commentlist li.comment .comment-author .avatar {
    position: relative;
    top: 5px;
    margin-right: 10px;
}
.commentlist li.comment .comment-author .fn, .commentlist li.comment .comment-author .url {
    font-size: 14px;
    font-weight: bold;
}
.commentlist li.comment .comment-author .says {
    font-weight: normal;
}
.commentlist li.comment .comment-meta {
    font-size: 11px;
    line-height: 1.5em;
    margin-bottom: 1.5em;
}
.commentlist li.comment .comment-meta a {
    color: #999;
}
.commentlist li.comment p {
    font-size: 12px;
    line-height: 1.5em;
    margin: 0 0 1.5em;
}
.commentlist li.comment .reply {
    font-size: 11px;
    font-weight: bold;
    line-height: 1.5em;
    text-transform: uppercase;
}
.commentlist li.comment .reply a {
    color: #999;
}
.commentlist li.comment .reply a:hover {
    color: #333;
}
.commentlist li.comment ul.children {
    list-style: none;
    margin: 0;
}
.commentlist li.comment ul.children li.comment {
    padding-left: 30px;
    margin: 0;
}
.commentlist li.comment ul.children li.comment .comment-author .avatar {
    width: 20px;
    height: 20px;
    top: 5px;
}
.commentlist li.comment ul.children li.comment .comment-author {
    line-height: 20px;
}
.commentlist li.comment ul.children li.comment .comment-author .fn, .commentlist li.comment ul.children li.comment .comment-author .says {
    font-size: 12px;
}
.commentlist li.comment ul.children li.comment .comment-meta {
    line-height: 1.5em;
}
.commentlist li.comment ul.children li.comment p {
    font-size: 11px;
    line-height: 1.5em;
    margin: 0 0 1.5em;
}
.commentlist li.comment ul.children li.comment .reply {
    font-size: 11px;
}
.commentlist li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment {
    padding-left: 30px;
    margin: 0;
}
.commentlist li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment .comment-author .avatar {
    width: 15px;
    height: 15px;
    top: 5px;
}
.commentlist li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment .comment-author {
    line-height: 15px;
}
.commentlist li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment .comment-author .fn, .commentlist li.comment ul.children li.comment .comment-author .says {
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    margin: 0;
}
.commentlist li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment .comment-author .avatar {
    width: 10px;
    height: 10px;
    top: 5px;
}
.commentlist li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment .comment-author {
    line-height: 10px;
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    margin: 0;
}
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    width: 5px;
    height: 5px;
    top: 5px;
}
.commentlist li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment .comment-author {
    line-height: 5px;
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    line-height: 1.5em;
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.commentlist li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment p {
    font-size: 0px;
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.commentlist li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment p {
    font-size: 0px;
    line-height: 1.5em;
    margin: 0 0 1.5em;
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.commentlist li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment .reply {
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.commentlist li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment {
    padding-left: 30px;
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    width: 0px;
    height: 0px;
    top: 5px;
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    line-height: 0px;
}
.commentlist li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment .comment-author .fn, .commentlist li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment .comment-author .says {
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    line-height: 1.5em;
}
.commentlist li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment p {
    font-size: 0px;
    line-height: 1.5em;
    margin: 0 0 1.5em;
}
.commentlist li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment .reply {
    font-size: 0px;
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.commentlist li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment {
    padding-left: 30px;
    margin: 0;
}
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    width: 0px;
    height: 0px;
    top: 5px;
}
.commentlist li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment .comment-author {
    line-height: 0px;
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.commentlist li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment .comment-author .fn, .commentlist li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment .comment-author .says {
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    line-height: 1.5em;
}
.commentlist li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment p {
    font-size: 0px;
    line-height: 1.5em;
    margin: 0 0 1.5em;
}
.commentlist li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment .reply {
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    width: 0px;
    height: 0px;
    top: 5px;
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    line-height: 0px;
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    line-height: 1.5em;
}
.commentlist li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment p {
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    line-height: 0px;
}
.commentlist li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment .comment-author .fn, .commentlist li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment .comment-author .says {
    font-size: 0px;
}
.commentlist li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment .comment-meta {
    line-height: 1.5em;
}
.commentlist li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment p {
    font-size: 0px;
    line-height: 1.5em;
    margin: 0 0 1.5em;
}
.commentlist li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment .reply {
    font-size: 0px;
}
.commentlist li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment {
    padding-left: 30px;
    margin: 0;
}
.commentlist li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment .comment-author .avatar {
    width: 0px;
    height: 0px;
    top: 5px;
}
.commentlist li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment .comment-author {
    line-height: 0px;
}
.commentlist li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment .comment-author .fn, .commentlist li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment .comment-author .says {
    font-size: 0px;
}
.commentlist li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment .comment-meta {
    line-height: 1.5em;
}
.commentlist li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment p {
    font-size: 0px;
    line-height: 1.5em;
    margin: 0 0 1.5em;
}
.commentlist li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment .reply {
    font-size: 0px;
}
.commentlist li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment {
    padding-left: 30px;
    margin: 0;
}
.commentlist li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment .comment-author .avatar {
    width: 0px;
    height: 0px;
    top: 5px;
}
.commentlist li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment .comment-author {
    line-height: 0px;
}
.commentlist li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment ul.children li.comment .comment-author .fn, .
```

```
var       WB$wombat$assign$function____     function(name) {return (self._wb_wombat && self._wb_wombat.local_init(name))     self[name]; }
if(!self._WB_pmw) { self._WB_pmw = function(obj) { this._WB_source = obj; return this; } }
{
  let window = WB$wombat$assign$function____("window");
  let self = WB$wombat$assign$function____("self");
  let document = WB$wombat$assign$function____("document");
  let location = WB$wombat$assign$function____("location");
  let top = WB$wombat$assign$function____("top");
  let parent = WB$wombat$assign$function____("parent");
  let frames = WB$wombat$assign$function____("frames");
  let opener = WB$wombat$assign$function____("opener");

var addComment={moveForm:function(a,b,c,d){var e,f=this,g=f.$(a),h=f.$(c),i=f.$i("cancel-comment-reply-link"),j=f.$i("comment_parent").k=f.$i("comment_post_ID");if(g&&h&&i&&j){f.respondId=c,d=d||"1",f.$("wp-temp-form-div")||(e=document.createElement("div"),e.id="wp-temp-form-div",e.style.display="none",h.parentNode.insertBefore(e,h)),g.parentNode.insertBefore(h,g.nextSibling),k&&d&&(k.value=d),j.value=b,i.style.display="",this.onclick=function(){var a=addComment,b=a.$("wp-temp-form-div"),c=a.$(a.respondId);if(b&&c)return a.$("comment_parent").value="0",b.parentNode.insertBefore(c,b),b.parentNode.removeChild(b),this.style.display="none",this.onclick=null,!1},try{f.$("comment").focus()}catch(i){}return!1}},I=function(a){return document.getElementById(a)}}

}
/*
    FILE ARCHIVED ON 18:10:10 Feb 18, 2016 AND RETRIEVED FROM THE
    INTERNET ARCHIVE ON 16:28:15 Aug 08, 2023
    JAVASCRIPT APPENDED BY WAYBACK MACHINE, COPYRIGHT INTERNET ARCHIVE

    ALL OTHER CONTENT MAY ALSO BE PROTECTED BY COPYRIGHT (17 U.S.C
    SECTION 108(a)(3))
*/
/*
playback timings (ms):
  captures_list: 616.124
  exclusion.robots: 0.279
  exclusion.robots.policy: 0.267
  cdx.remote: 0.081
  esindex: 0.013
  LoadShardBlock: 582.012 (3)
  PetaboxLoader3.datanode: 581.207 (4)
  load_resource: 87.83
  PetaboxLoader3.resolve: 34.011
*/
```

XML-RPC server accepts POST requests only

This XML file does not appear to have any style information associated with it. The document tree is shown below


```
▼<rss xmlns:content="http://purl.org/rss/1.0/modules/content/" xmlns:dc="http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/" xmlns:atom="http://www.w3.org/2005/Atom"
 xmlns:sy="http://purl.org/rss/1.0/modules/syndication/" version="2.0">
  ▼<channel>
    <title></title>
    <atom:link href="http://testertime.com/comments/feed/" rel="self" type="application/rss+xml" />
    <link>http://testertime.com</link>
    <description />
    <lastBuildDate />
    <sy:updatePeriod>hourly</sy:updatePeriod>
    <sy:updateFrequency>1</sy:updateFrequency>
    <generator>http://wordpress.org/?v=4.1.10</generator>
  </channel>
</rss>
```

This XML file does not appear to have any style information associated with it. The document tree is shown below


```
▼<manifest xmlns="http://schemas.microsoft.com/wlw/manifest/weblog">
  ▼<options>
    <clientType>WordPress</clientType>
    <supportsKeywords>Yes</supportsKeywords>
    <supportsGetTags>Yes</supportsGetTags>
  </options>
  ▼<weblog>
    <serviceName>WordPress</serviceName>
    <imageUrl>images/wlw/wp-icon.png</imageUrl>
    <watermarkImageUrl>images/wlw/wp-watermark.png</watermarkImageUrl>
    <homepageLinkText>View site</homepageLinkText>
    <adminLinkText>Dashboard</adminLinkText>
    ▼<adminUrl>
      <![CDATA[{blogpostapiurl}/../wp-admin/]]>
    </adminUrl>
    ▼<postEditingUrl>
      <![CDATA[{blogpostapiurl}/../wp-admin/post.php?action=edit&post={postid}]]>
    </postEditingUrl>
  </weblog>
  ▼<buttons>
    ▼<button>
      <id>0</id>
      <text>Manage Comments</text>
      <imageUrl>images/wlw/wp-comments.png</imageUrl>
      ▼<clickUrl>
        <![CDATA[{blogpostapiurl}/../wp-admin/edit-comments.php]]>
      </clickUrl>
    </button>
  </buttons>
</manifest>
```

3D

9D 20000

Theme by wpart

Theme by wpart

var WB$wombat$assign$function____ function(name) {return (self._wb_wombat && self._wb_wombat.local_init(name)) self[name]; }
if (self._WB_pmw) { self._WB_pmw = function(obj) { this._WB_source = obj; return this; } }
{
let window = WB$wombat$assign$function____("window");
let self = WB$wombat$assign$function____("self");
let document = WB$wombat$assign$function____("document");
let location = WB$wombat$assign$function____("location");
let top = WB$wombat$assign$function____("top");
let parent = WB$wombat$assign$function____("parent");
let frames = WB$wombat$assign$function____("frames");
let opener = WB$wombat$assign$function____("opener");

var addComment={moveForm:function(a,b,c,d){var e,f,g,h,i=this,j=i.I(a),k=i.I(c),l=i.I("cancel-comment-reply-link"),m=i.I("comment_parent"),n=i.I("comment_post_ID"),o=k.getElementsByTagName("form")
[0];if(j&&k&&l&&m&&o){i.respondId=c,d=d||!1,i.I("wp-temp-form-div")||(e=document.createElement("div"),e.id="wp-temp-form-
div",e.style.display="none",k.parentNode.insertBefore(e,k)),j.parentNode.insertBefore(k,j.nextSibling),n&&d&&(n.value=d),m.value=b,l.style.display="",l.onclick=function(){var a=addComment,b=a.I("wp-temp-
form-div"),c=a.I(a.respondId);if(b&&c)return a.I("comment_parent").value="0",b.parentNode.insertBefore(c,b),b.parentNode.removeChild(b),this.style.display="none",this.onclick=null,!1}}};try{for(var
p=0,p<o.elements.length;p++)if(f=o.elements[p],h=!1,"getComputedStyle"in window?g=window.getComputedStyle(f):document.documentElement.currentStyle&&(g=f.currentStyle),
(f.offsetWidth<=0&&f.offsetHeight<=0||"hidden"==g.visibility)&&(h=!0),"hidden"!=f.type&&!f.disabled&&!h){f.focus();break}}catch(q){}return!1}},function(a){return document.getElementById(a)}}

}
/*
FILE ARCHIVED ON 14:46:17 Mar 11, 2016 AND RETRIEVED FROM THE
INTERNET ARCHIVE ON 16:28:28 Aug 08, 2023
JAVASCRIPT APPENDED BY WAYBACK MACHINE, COPYRIGHT INTERNET ARCHIVE

ALL OTHER CONTENT MAY ALSO BE PROTECTED BY COPYRIGHT (17 U.S.C.
SECTION 108(a)(3))
*/
/*
playback timings (ms):
captures_list: 75.376
exclusion.robots: 0.235
exclusion.robots.policy: 0.219
RedisCDXSource: 0.735
esindex: 0.011
LoadShardBlock: 52.655 (3)
PetaboxLoader3.datanode: 156.107 (4)
load_resource: 212.884
PetaboxLoader3.resolve: 73.242
*/

Forbidden

You don't have permission to access /wp-json/ on this server

Additionally, a 403 Forbidden error was encountered while trying to use an ErrorDocument to handle the request.

Forbidden

You don't have permission to access /admin/wp-includes/js/wp-embed.min.js on this server.

Additionally, a 403 Forbidden error was encountered while trying to use an ErrorDocument to handle the request.

Forbidden

You don't have permission to access /admin/wp-includes/js/comment-reply.min.js on this server.

Additionally, a 403 Forbidden error was encountered while trying to use an ErrorDocument to handle the request.

Forbidden

You do not have permission to access this document.